

ALLEGHANY
STAR ★ **TIMES**
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The TIMES, established 1925.
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Alleghany County
Formed in 1859
Area, 209 sq. miles or 133,760 acres
Elevation, average, 2,700 feet.
County Seat, Sparta, population, 652
County Officers:
Clerk of Court A. F. Reeves
Register of Deeds T. M. Gambill
Sheriff and Treasurer DeWitt Bryan
Coroner Dr. B. O. Choate
Surveyor J. C. Sparks
Superintendent of Health Dr. B. O. Choate
Superintendent of Schools W. C. Thompson
Superintendent of Public Welfare Lillie Ervin
Farm Demonstration Agent R. E. Black
Chairman Board of Education T. Roy Burgess
Chairman Board of Elections Amos Wagoner
Game Warden and Forest Warden R. D. Gentry
County Attorney R. F. Crouse
County Commissioners: V. B. Phipps, Chairman,
Mouth of Wilson; Mac D. Wagoner, Whitehead,
and J. C. Gambill, Independence.

Modern Heating Systems
Now that the county officers are moving into their fine new building, and having to build separate fires in the various rooms, it seems to emphasize and give more point to the oft-expressed wish that a central heating system had been provided for the building.
Surely the day is past when individual stoves are sufficient in a modern office building. Of course, Alleghany is happy to have the new County Office Building at all. It is a fine improvement, and doubtless, some day, a modern central heating system will be installed.
But, there's another building that surely deserves a modern heating plant before another winter. The Court House is in almost every respect a building to be proud of. And yet, and yet, those variegated stoves scattered in the various rooms, with their accompanying coal buckets and ashes and sundry decorative appliances do not fit in the 1941 style of living.
When the Methodists, who are only a small group compared with the whole county, can put in a fine modern heating plant, with heat carried direct to each separate room, and when the Baptists, who also are only one group in the county, are busy installing a similar up-to-date system, it does seem that the Alleghany County Court House deserves something better in the way of heating than those individual coal burners.
Of course, various expenses will be involved beside cost of installation. There'll be the cost of cuspidors, too, when the stoves go out.

Royal Air Force Pay Scales
The commissioned officers of the Royal Air Force of Great Britain are not getting high salaries, despite the dangers they take in their daily encounters with German planes. A Pilot Officer, a rank equivalent to a Second Lieutenant in the Army, receives only \$2.90 per day. From this low the scale ranges to a high of \$25.40 per day, the amount paid an Air Chief Marshal, who ranks the same as a Field Marshal in the Army. Most of the men who do the actual fighting receive from \$100 to \$200 a month.

The Hickory Grove Low Down
In Arizona a person predicting on the weather is either a tenderfoot, or is slightly touched—as the natives say, out there. But you go down there to our nation's capital where the predicting is even tougher and where the wind changes every half-hour, you find everybody guessing. Our 2-column columnists wade in and predict exactly what is gonna happen next—and don't bat an eye.
No man—black, white or bronze—can tell what will happen next down there. Anybody trying to do so, the safest place for him is to be locked up.
Today the super-latest idea is what to do now, when defense work sags. Like a mountain goat, we go from crag to crag, and each crag is more slippery.
How any nation can keep on experimenting year in and year out—and come home in a barrel each time—is something for the historians to ponder.
Instead of there being 7 wonders of the world, we might make it eight.
Yours with the low down,
JO SERRA

OUR DEMOCRACY — by Mat
WE HAVEN'T ALL OUR EGGS IN ONE BASKET
ONE OF THE REASONS FOR AMERICA'S STRENGTH IS VARIETY-DIVERSIFICATION. — MUCH IS DUE TO NATURE... EVEN MORE TO INITIATIVE AND BRAINS.
THE ADVENTUROUS PIONEER SPIRIT OF PROSPECTORS FOUND OUR MANY MINERALS. THE GREAT VARIETY OF OUR MANUFACTURES IS BASED ON ONE THING—INVENTIVE GENIUS IN WHICH WE LEAD THE WORLD.
FORESIGHT AND THRIFT GAVE US TWO OTHER GREAT AMERICAN DIVERSIFICATIONS—ROTATION OF CROPS, ESSENTIAL TO SUCCESSFUL FARMING... AND THE SPREADING OF THE INVESTMENTS OF OUR LIFE INSURANCE COMPANIES THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE COUNTRY.

PETTENGILL
"The Gentleman from Indiana"
WILL HITLER RUN OUT OF GAS?
In December 1917 Clemenceau cabled President Wilson, "A jug of oil is worth a jug of blood." It was later said that "The Allies floated to victory on a sea of oil."
Recently Ambassador Kennedy said that he never understood why Germany permitted the British to escape from Dunkirk. With Holland knocked out, Belgium crushed, France doomed, with victory almost in his hand, and with his tremendous superiority in planes and bombs, why did not Hitler fill the skies over the British ships and prevent the retreat of a third of a million men over a narrow channel? Furthermore Italy acted as if her vaunted air force of 6000 planes were grounded.
In 1938, Dr. Rudolph Eicke, director of the Reichsbank, said that Germany produced only 40% of her peacetime requirements of gasoline, fuel, and lubricating oils. Dr. Ferdinand Friedensburg, author of the German reference book, "Mineral Resources as Factors of Military Might," wrote in 1937 that war requirements of oil are several times peace requirements. On the plus and minus side of peacetime consumption Germany saves because her marine shipping is practically idle and her civilian use of automobiles is cut down to the point where physicians are allowed only two or three gallons a week, and ordinary folk none.
She has gained, also, by seizing storage in Norway, Holland, Belgium and France. She has acquired additional supplies in Poland, Czechoslovakia and Rumania. Possibly only a little more from Russia. She is stepping up her production of synthetic motor fuel from coal. Is it enough?
If by shooting the works on a single toss of the dice she forces Britain to quit this spring or summer, that question will never be answered. No doubt she has enough for a supreme effort, but the risk of losing her offensive and then fighting on the defensive with short rations for her machines is a enormous gamble.
If, however, Britain holds her lines during 1941, all available evidence indicates that Germany cannot obtain enough gas and fuel oil from all sources to carry on a full-sized war. But on the other hand, her submarine counter-blockade may cut Britain off from her overseas sources of supply. In short, if Germany does not win in six months it seems likely that neither side can win except by a war of exhaustion, hunger, and terms that will wreck victors and victims alike.
As long as the sea lanes are open to the United States, Venezuela, and Trinidad, Britain has access to two-thirds of the petroleum world total. And a new factor comes into the picture—100 octane gas. Here Britain has an enormous potential advantage. A plane with 100 octane gas can fly at least one-fifth faster, carry a load of bombs one-fifth heavier, and climb 25% faster than the same plane using 85 octane gas. Equipment equal, the high octane fuel carries victory. And as against 70 or 80 octane gas, the margin of advantage increases.
We can produce 110 or 125 octane gas from our enormous raw material supply. Petroleum engineers tell me there is only so much of the makings of high octane gas in a barrel of crude. There is no presently known cracking process by which you can extract more than there is. Consequently, the belligerent with access to limitless raw crude can overcome, with high octane gas, advantages its adversary may have in better engine and plane design, aircraft artillery, or the training and experience of the flyers. Already, plane for plane, British superiority is becoming manifest.
In a book just off the press, "This Fascinating Business of Oil" by Max Ball, a petroleum

"North Carolina," First Battleship In 17 Years
(continued from front page)
October 27, 1937, it was the first battleship keel to be laid since April, 1921. At that time, the contractors set the completion date for September 1, 1941. But it now appears that the North Carolina will be serving in the line of the fleet nearly three months ahead of that date.
The North Carolina will be one of the most formidable vessels upon the seas. Her standard displacement is 35,000 tons and her armament is nine 16-inch guns—mounted in three turrets, three guns per turret—and a heavy battery of anti-aircraft and secondary broadside guns. Propulsion is by turbines, developing 115,000 horsepower from oil fired boilers, giving a designed speed of twenty-seven knots. The length at the water line is 704 feet, maximum beam 108 feet, and has a mean draft of 26 feet 8 inches at standard displacement. She is equipped to carry three aircraft.
The battleship is the fourth naval vessel to be assigned the name of North Carolina, and will be the third of that name to be in the service of the United States navy.
Secretary Knox accompanied his order to Captain Hustvedt with orders to additional naval officers to assist him in placing the North Carolina in service. None of these 19 are North Carolinians.
Captain Hustvedt is 54 years of age. He is a native of Chicago but was appointed to the Annapolis Naval Academy from Iowa, where he still maintains his home.
During the World War he served as aide to the commander of Battleship Division Six in the Atlantic fleet and later operated with the British Grand Fleet aboard the USS Oklahoma. He was awarded a special letter of commendation for his service during the World War, and in addition holds the Mexican service medal and the victory medal.
He has served aboard many ships of the fleet as well as at the naval gun factory in Washington and with the Chief of Naval Operations. At present, he is a student at the Naval War College, Newport, R. I.
engineer with years of training with the U. S. Geological Survey, Bureau of Mines, and large oil companies, the author gathers together the latest evidence on oil and the war. His text leads to the conclusion that Germany cannot carry on a long war and have anything better at the end than a peace without victory.
To summarize: At a minimum, German war time requirements are 90,000,000 barrels annually. (Some German authorities put it at three times that figure). In Germany, Poland and Czechoslovakia, Mr. Ball estimates a total, from crude oil and coal, of 25,000,000 barrels. That leaves him 65,000,000 short annually.
Where is she to make up her shortage? Except for supplies in storage when occupied, Norway, Holland, Belgium and France produce nothing. Russia has actually been importing aviation gasoline. But she has exported as high as 6,600,000 barrels of crude. Rumanian production is decreasing. However, by cutting off what Rumania formerly sold to Britain and France, Hitler may there obtain 18,000,000 barrels extra. Italy has no oil that counts. She is an oil liability. Germany in time may increase her artificial motor fuel from coal. But this is a process very costly in manpower with a labor shortage already existing.
All in all, and from every source, Germany appears short one-half of her war time need. She needs two barrels and can secure but one. When an all-out effort exhausts her present storage, her power to carry on a full sized offensive is gone. This makes the New York and Washington talk about Germany conquering the Western Hemisphere look like sheer propaganda, either ignorant or dishonest.
Samuel B. Pettengill
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(Out from memory's storehouse comes an old-fashioned poem which our correspondent learned when she was a child, and has never seen in print.—Ed.)

"Give Us This Day —"
I knew a widow, very poor,
Who four small children had;
The eldest was but six years old,—
A gentle modest lad.

And very hard this widow toiled,
To feed her children four;
A noble heart the mother had,
Though she was very poor.

To labor she would leave her home,
For children must be fed;
And glad was she when she could get
A shilling's worth of bread.

And this was all the children had,
On any day to eat;
They drank their water, ate their bread,
And never tasted meat.

One day while snow was falling fast,
And piercing was the air;
I thought that I would go and see
How these poor children were.

And when I reached their humble home,
I found it swept by every breeze;
On going in, the oldest child
I saw upon his knees.

I paused to listen to the boy,
Who never raised his head,
But still went on and said,
"Give us this day our daily bread."

I waited till the child was done,
Still listening as he prayed;
And when he rose I asked him why
That prayer he then had said.

"Why sir," said he, "this very morn,
When our mother went away;
She wept because she said she had
No bread for us today."

"She said we children now must starve,
Our father being dead,
And then I told her not to cry,
For I could get some bread."

"Our Father, sir, the prayer begins,
Which made me think that He—
As we have no own father here—
Would our kind Father be."

"And then you know, sir, that the prayer,
Asks God for bread today,
So in the corner, sir, I went,
And that's what made me pray."

I quickly left the wretched room,
And went with fleeting feet,
And very soon was back again,
With food enough to eat.

"Oh good! God heard me," said the boy,
I answered with a nod;
I could not speak, but much I thought,
Of that boy's faith in God.

—ALICE CHOATE
Cherry Lane

"Let There Be Light"
A Thought For The Thoughtful
I believe the first test of a truly great man is his humility. I do not mean, by humility, doubt of his own power. But really great men have a curious feeling that the greatness is not in them but through them. And they see something divine in every other man, and are endlessly, foolishly, incredibly merciful.—Ruskin.

Fortified Wine in Alleghany
Just how it will finally come out in Raleigh remains to be seen, but when the administration introduced a measure in the legislature seeking to shut out from North Carolina dry counties the sale of fortified wine, it has seemed strange that Alleghany's representative, W. Bert Edwards, sponsored an amendment to make an exception in the case of Alleghany county.
Fortified wine is that that contains a larger or an added alcohol content. Alleghany county is one of the 70 or more counties that by vote of the people decided to be "dry" and free from the offering for public sale of the stronger spirituous liquors. The measure seeking to shut out fortified wine from dry counties would seem to be exactly in harmony with the expressed wish of Alleghany voters. And why our representative asks that Alleghany be made an exception for the sale of fortified wine is not yet fully explained.

Citron
Citron, March 4. — Rev. Lon Billings and Mac Dowell will preach at Pine Fork Church on Saturday night, March 8 at 7 o'clock.
Mrs. Effie Pruitt has been sick for some time but is slowly improving.
Mrs. Leevette Sheets had as dinner guests on Sunday Rev. C. H. McKnight, Mr. and Mrs. Vester Horton and children, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Dixon Jr. and children and Daniel Dixon.
Mr. and Mrs. U. S. Myers and Lena Sheets visited relatives and friends at Pleghorn Valley, Va. Monday.
Okey Sheets had his hand seriously cut while filing an axe on Tuesday morning.
Mrs. Dora Williams and family have been ill with the flu.
Rev. C. H. McKnight filled his regular appointment at Pine Fork Baptist church Saturday night and Sunday.
Mr. and Mrs. F. O. Richardson, of Laurel Springs, visited their daughter, Mrs. Pozie Pruitte, on Sunday.
Dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. U. S. Myers on Sunday were: Mr. and Mrs. Bradshaw Myers and son, Rufus, of West Jefferson, and Mr. and Mrs. Edward Daney.
Tyre Taylor, who is employed in Greensboro, visited his home folks Saturday and Sunday.
Mr. and Mrs. Vester Horton and children, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Dixon and children visited relatives here Sunday evening.
Mr. and Mrs. Vergil Jenkins visited Mrs. Jenkins' father, John Royal, Saturday and Sunday.
Jochie Taylor, of West Virginia, spent Sunday night with Claude Daney.
Mr. and Mrs. Willard Dixon

and children spent the week-end with Mrs. Dixon's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Miller.
John Long, of High Point, visited relatives here this week-end.
Mr. and Mrs. T. C. Osborne and F. T. Gart spent the week-end at home.
Those who attended the candy making at Calvin Wyatt's on Tuesday night from Citron were: Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Osborne, Johnnie Hamm, Ray and Wilma Long, Lena and Okey Sheets, and Iva Grace Hoppers.

Laurel Springs
Laurl Springs, March 3. — A fine sermon was preached at Pleasant Grove church Sunday afternoon by Rev. Carlie McKnight.
Claude Brinegar visited his sister, Mrs. Caudill Brown, at State Road this week-end.
Mrs. Carrel Jones visited Miss Lura Anderson Sunday afternoon.
Frank Brinegar who is very sick doesn't seem to improve much.
Luther Blevins has been very ill at Oscar Petty's but is much better.
Miss Lola Petty has been ill with flu but is improving.
Miss Lura Anderson was very ill Saturday and Sunday but is better now.
Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Brinegar and Clintard McCann visited Frank Brinegar Sunday afternoon.

Maple Shade
Maple Shade, March 4. — Mrs. Nannie Williams, of Turkey Knob, is visiting her son, Sam Williams, in Raleigh this week.
Miss Evelyn Pettyjohn, of Pi-

Edwards X Roads
Edwards X Roads, March 3. — Mrs. Alice Edwards spent last week with her daughter, Mrs. M. H. Fender and family.
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Crouse and son, of Galax, spent Saturday night in the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Choate.
Mr. and Mrs. Kyle Edwards and family have recovered from "flu."
Mrs. R. B. Lambe, formerly of this county, now living at Ulysses, Nebr., was in an auto wreck on February 11th and is reported to have sustained three broken ribs and several severe cuts and bruises. Her many relatives and friends here will be sorry to hear of this. She is a sister of Mrs. John Duncan, of Sparta, Route 1, also of Mrs. Eddie Murphy, of Galax.
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Crouse, of Galax, Mrs. C. C. Choate, Mrs. Greek Crouse, Floyd Halsey and sister, Miss Ada Halsey, visited in the home of Mrs. Lena Gentry Sunday afternoon.

"What is meant by the bone of contention, Pop?"
"I'd say it was the jaw bone,

DR. N. D. FOX
Dentist
ANNOUNCES
The opening of his office in Sparta, in the rooms formerly occupied by Dr. C. A. Reeves