



Washington, D. C. — From a trustworthy independent source in Ankara, Turkey, your reporters hear the following news:

It is too soon to say that the Axis Powers are losing, but it is not too soon to predict that the turning-point has been seen. Britain's successes in Egypt and Libya, and Greece's in Albania, have heartened the Turks and have very greatly impressed the Kremlin. Sabotage on a serious scale is occurring in Norway, Denmark and Czechoslovakia (but mainly in the first two), and the people of Italy are showing at every opportunity that they have no stomach for a war which can bring aggrandisement only to Hitler.

The situation has brightened more than anyone would have dreamed that it could a few weeks ago. The informant who sent this dispatch has access to uncensored material and his observations can be accepted as dependable. In another quarter it was learned this week that while Adolf Hitler can still hypnotize the German masses, the morale of the people as a whole is mediocre.

Reliable private dispatches about events in Germany disclose that Hitler has been holding a series of important conferences with Mussolini at his mountain snuggery in Bavaria. At these parleys the development of Mediterranean strategy was undoubtedly the paramount issue.

The trip to Berchtesgaden was no joyride for the Duce, who has lately acquired a German bodyguard. This fact confirms other reports that Italy is seething with discontent and that the Gestapo has been called in to help control an ugly situation. No impressive retinue accompanied Mussolini on his journey into the Reich. His sole traveling companion, apart from minor officials, was an impressive young Count Galeazzo Ciano, son-in-law and Foreign Minister. When they reached the Fuehrer's chalet in the craggy Bavarian Alps they found Hitler closeted with Foreign Minister Ribbentrop and Marshal Wilhelm Keitel, Nazi C-in-C., and had to wait over an hour before the All Highest would see them. Hitler used a domineering tone throughout the subsequent discussion, and when Ciano got hot under the collar and began to answer back, he was told to get out of the room.

The Reichsfuehrer made a series of demands on Mussolini. It is understood that the two most important were that Italy must renounce all its former claims against the Vichy Government and must place its military, naval and air forces under Nazi control.

In Rome last week the Spring sun had just begun to draw Italians to their favorite outdoor cafe table, when like a bolt out of a clear sky came an edict abolishing this time-honored and much-loved custom. It seems that the authorities felt that these sun and air worshippers talked too much and too loud. It is one of those little things which count much with Romans and foment discontent among the easy-going older populace.

Time Magazine claims the highest-paying subscriber in the history of circulation departments—the Maharajah of Jaipur, who shells out \$850 each year for weekly airmail subscription service.

Marriages

JOHNSON—COCKERHAM

The wedding of Mrs. Rena Bottomley Cockerham and Mack Johnson was solemnized on Wednesday, March 5, at the Allegheny County court house, in the presence of a few close friends. Rev. R. L. Berry officiated.

Mrs. Johnson, widow of the late Charlie Cockerham, was formerly Miss Rena Bottomley, daughter of Floyd and Matilda Bottomley, of Saddle Mountain community.

Mr. Johnson is a prominent farmer and salesman of Hooker. He is the son of the late Rev. Keys Johnson, of Galax, and is widely known in Allegheny, Grayson and adjoining counties.

Aliens in U. S. A.

Attorney General Jackson announces that 4,742,000 aliens in continental U. S. were registered and fingerprinted under the Alien Registration Act.

Discussing "the problem of adjustment and absorption" of aliens, it is said "the principal responsibility for constructive action" rests with U. S. citizens—"this is a job which Government cannot do alone."

Our world...

British Envoy Intended Victim of Assassin

Istanbul, Turkey.—An assassin's bomb which exploded last night in the Pera Palace Hotel here left unhurt the apparent chief intended victim—George W. Rendel, former British minister to German-occupied Bulgaria—but two other persons were killed and 23 injured. Rendel, who had arrived at the hotel to take up residence after breaking British relations with Bulgaria, had just gone to his rooms—and that circumstance perhaps saved him from injury or death. His daughter, Anne, also was unhurt.

Turkey Faces Very Grave Crisis

Istanbul, Turkey.—The Turkish Parliament met last night to chart the nation's course in its gravest crisis since the World War, amid inspired press reports that a victory for Turkey's British ally "probably is insured" by the United States lend-lease bill.

Russia Gives Turkey Assurances

Ankara, Turkey.—A Russian promise that Turkey need fear no attack from the Soviet should she enter the war has been given to the Turkish ambassador to Moscow by V. Molotoff, the Russian premier and foreign commissar, a competent source declared last night. The same informant added that the Germans were raising long-range guns in the port of Varna in Nazi-occupied Bulgaria, with the apparent intention of controlling Black Sea shipping.

Yugoslavia's Position Practically Hopeless

Belgrade, Yugoslavia.—Germany was reported in authoritative diplomatic quarters last night to have dashed Yugoslav hopes of a compromise understanding with the axis and to have demanded full alliance in the three-power pact. As a consequence, there were unconfirmed reports that Premier Cvetkovic and Foreign Minister Cincar-Markovic will go to Germany later in the week to join Bulgaria, Slovakia, Rumania and Hungary in the Rome-Berlin-Tokyo axis.

British Moving To Aid Greece

Belgrade.—Unconfirmed reports reached diplomatic circles here that a big British expeditionary force from north Africa is being landed at Piraeus, the port of Athens, for action on the Greek front. It also was reported that British transports were about to land troops at Salonika, key Greek port barely 60 miles from where German mechanized forces are massed along the Bulgaria-Greek Macedonian border.

Lease-Lend Bill Speeds to Passing

Washington.—In a breath-taking burst of speed, Congress rushed the lease-lend bill to the White House yesterday. President Roosevelt signed it, and four minutes later ordered an undisclosed list of war materials sent to England and Greece. Then, he told a press conference he would ask Congress today for the nation's biggest peace-time appropriation—\$7 billion—to finance the help-Britain program, and that some time within a week he would make a radio talk on the subject. Final congressional approval took the form of a 317-to-71 House vote accepting amendments attached to the bill by the Senate, and the accompanying debate produced bi-partisan pledges of national unity, now that a majority of both houses had spoken.

Our Army Enlarging Rapidly

Washington.—The army passed the million mark yesterday in its rapid expansion, attaining the highest total since demobilization of the 3,673,888-man World War army more than two decades ago. The War Department reported 68,500 regular, national guard and reserve officers were on duty, and 935,000 enlisted men. The navy's count showed 229,936 officers and men on March 1, when the marine corps reported 48,517.

N. C. Liquor Referendum Bill About Lost

Raleigh.—The last, slim chance of a liquor referendum bill to pass this session of the General Assembly apparently disappeared yesterday when the house finance committee rejected a proposal which would have called for a vote next November on whether the state should abolish all traffic in alcoholic beverages. The committee vote was 34 to 10.

Wilburn B. Estep Of Whitehead Passes Away

One of the first rural mail carriers of Allegheny County, and the only retired carrier in the county, Wilburn Berry Estep, passed away Saturday morning, March 8, at his home in Whitehead at the age of 66 years, following a year of suffering with sickness.

Born near Stratford, he was the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Hiram J. Estep. Education was secured at the old Whitehead Academy and at the Sparta High School, when John M. Cheek was a member of the faculty.

For 11 years, from 1899 to 1910, he was a member of the firm of Woodruff, Estep and Company and Shepherd, Estep and Company, in mercantile business at Stratford. He was a teacher in the public schools of the county for three years, from 1898 to 1900.

His appointment by the Civil Service Commission as rural mail carrier from the Whitehead post office was on February 2, 1914.

Mr. Estep carried the Whitehead mail 25 years and retired two years ago. About a year after retirement he was overtaken

The Woman's Club Meets Next Week On Friday

The March meeting of the Woman's Club will be held in the new Community Building next Friday, March 21, at 3 o'clock, with Mrs. C. A. Thompson, Mrs. R. L. Berry and Mrs. Harry Vaughan as hostesses.

The subject for discussion at the meeting being art, each member will be asked to respond at roll call with the name of some artist. W. S. Mead will lead the discussion of the topic.

by illness and spent much time in the hospitals of Statesville and Winston-Salem seeking relief.

Funeral services were held at Liberty church, Whitehead, on Sunday, by Rev. V. W. Sears, Shade Caudle and G. R. Blackburn and burial was in Liberty cemetery.

Survivors are his widow, the former Miss Bessie Cheek, of Whitehead; three children, Kemp B. Estep, who is connected with the Standard Oil Company at Hickory; John Herbert Estep, who is now studying medicine at Emory University in Atlanta; and Mrs. Rosa E. Richardson, of Whitehead; and two sisters, Mrs. George Irwin and Mrs. Charlie Crouse, of Whitehead.

Let's respect pedestrian rights—and we will have fewer pedestrian rites.

ALLEGHANY STAR-TIMES

OVER HALF A CENTURY OF SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF ALLEGHANY COUNTY

52nd. Year. — No. 29.

Sparta, N. C.

Thursday, March 13, 1941.

Thos. W. Gambill Passed Away Last Friday

Easily one of Alleghany county's best-liked citizens, Thomas M. Gambill, Register of Deeds, passed away so suddenly and unexpectedly last Friday night, March 7th that everyone was shocked. He was not feeling well on Tuesday, and on Wednesday he did not come to the office. Friday night at his home near Piney Creek he passed away very suddenly from what was said to be a heart attack.

Mr. Gambill was elected Register of Deeds for Alleghany County in 1938 and again in 1940. He was born five miles west of Sparta in 1872, and attended school at Trap Hill in Wilkes county, with later intervals at the county free schools here. Following his school days he worked on his parents' farm west of Sparta, near Piney Creek. He had always worked on his farm until he ran and was elected register of deeds.

Funeral services were held on Sunday at Elk Creek church, conducted by Rev. R. L. Berry, Elder John Williams and Elder Dancy, of Marion, Va. Interment was in Elk Creek cemetery.

Surviving are his wife, who was Miss Ella Petty, of Stratford, one son, Walter, formerly of the Post Office Department, but now teaching near Asheville, and five daughters,—Ella, wife of Richard D. Gentry, of Sparta; Rheba, of the Revenue Department in Raleigh; Miss Tommy, of Sparta; Mrs. Blanche Norman, of Dobson, and Mrs. Annie Burrus, of Rockford, N. C. Also surviving is a brother, Robert L., living near Twin Oaks.

"Let's Get Rich," Junior Class Play Saturday Night

This Saturday night at 7:30 in the school auditorium the Junior class of Sparta high school will present their annual play, an uproarious comedy entitled "Let's Get Rich."

Two old friends just can not get along without each other, nor with each other, and the trials and tribulations of these two women go to make up a merry madcap comedy in which there is no lack of drama. It promises to be sprightly entertainment, and comes this very Saturday night, March 15th.

The Ins and Outs Of Auto Safety

Would you like to get in on the secret of traffic accident causes? Well, here are four important ones listed by the state police. They are inattention . . . inexperience . . . incompetency . . . and indifference.

These ins would be out if more motorists paid attention to their driving, tried to learn the correct way to handle a car, and tried their best to be careful and unselfish on the road.

Work To Begin On Little Pine And Rich Hill Schools

Construction work is scheduled to start Monday on modern new school buildings at Little Pine and Rich Hill on which a total of \$17,994 will be spent and 35 WPA workmen employed.

Of the \$17,994, the WPA is furnishing \$10,578 and the county \$7,416. As has been the custom in the past, the WPA will pay for the labor and the county will furnish the materials.

The school buildings are each to contain three rooms, and will be constructed of face tile, and faced with brick. Bids have already been received for the materials. W. C. Thompson, superintendent of public education, announces.

When completed, the buildings will do away with old school buildings at Dividing Ridge, Hooker, Blevins Crossroads, Rich Hill and Little Pine. The new schools will get seven teachers, according to Mr. Thompson.



General Malin Craig, former Chief of Staff of the United States Army, has been elected to the board of directors of the Columbia Broadcasting System. Gen. Craig retired from the Service in August, 1939, after having won wide acclaim for his reorganization of the Army into "streamlined" units.

Sparta Loses A Popular Couple

Spartans were surprised and shocked when they learned that Mr. and Mrs. Chester were to be moved away from Belk's Store where they have made themselves and Belk's so popular in the six years they have been here. But that seems to be one penalty in working for a vast organization, an occasional shifting that breaks many ties.

Mr. and Mrs. Chester left on Tuesday for Charlotte, and where they will be located next is not yet announced. Belk's has scores of stores, and there are many places where Mr. Chester is needed.

The new manager in Sparta is W. K. Sprinkle, who comes from several years with Belk's in Statesville. He has a wife and young daughter, who will be three years old in June, and they will come and join Mr. Sprinkle as soon as he finds a place in which to live.

Alleghany will miss, sadly, the cheery presence of Bill and Hattie Chester. They had for themselves a very definite place in Sparta life. Alleghany wishes them well wherever they go.

And Alleghany welcomes heartily Mr. and Mrs. Sprinkle and the little daughter.

Wanted—More wreck-less drivers!

Spring Term Of Court Begins April 28

On the last Monday in April, the 28th, the Spring Term of Court will open in Alleghany. The panel from which juries will be called is made up of the following men:

Lloyd Absher, M. A. Jones, Sam McKnight, Carl Douglas, L. E. Edwards, Earl Farmer, Guy Waddell, S. G. Caudill, W. F. Jones, Grady Irwin, Cabel Wilson, Carl Choate, Bob Warden, J. Andy Wilson, Clarence Kennedy, J. B. Caudill, S. W. Brown, Page Thompson, Wayne Reeves, George Fowler, Walter Cheek, C. L. Hash, John H. Busic, Glenn Evans, Cary Wagoner, John Wagoner, H. B. Spurlin, Clive Holloway, George Key, W. L. Edwards, Hort Miller, Chap Edwards, Fred Handy, Will Joines, W. F. Osborne and Clate Blevins.

Judge J. P. Rousseau of North Wilkesboro will preside over this term of court it is announced.

U. S. Must Finally Stand Against Nazi Powers

The great efficiency of totalitarianism when compared to democratic methods was never more strikingly shown than during the early days of March. While isolationist Senators delayed a final vote on the Lend-Lease Bill, Nazi Germany moved further into the Balkans. There was no wasted effort. At Hitler's command, German soldiers were on the march almost before his diplomats had completed arrangements with the frightened Bulgarian officials.

Recent British and Greek military successes came at an opportune time. They undoubtedly contributed greatly to Turkey's decision to stand firm against any Nazi invasion attempt. But a strong stand by the United States, to the effect that it would go the limit in furnishing Britain and its allies with the materials of war, would undoubtedly have given courage to the faltering Balkan states.

There is a tendency among isolationists to ignore the moral value of any aid this country makes to the British cause. They categorically assume that all the assistance must be of a physical character.

In the first World War, the entrance of the United States revived the exhausted Allies at a time when they were almost beaten. But the fact that they knew help would eventually arrive strengthened their courage, revived faltering spirits and enabled them to carry on. They proved that as long as there is hope na-

Auto Accident At Whitehead Injures Two

The accident happened about noon on Sunday, March 2, at Whitehead, on Highway 18 where the side road starts toward Whitehead Mill. As so much misinformation has been circulated about the affair, the Star-Times has endeavored to gather the essential facts.

Ernest Hoppers and wife of Sparta, were going south on Highway 18 in a Ford pick-up truck, wishing to turn east into the Whitehead Mill road. They saw a Chevrolet car coming north on Highway 18 and apparently turning into the filling station on the east of the highway. This car was occupied by Ray Lyles, of Ore Knob, near West Jefferson, and four companions. Instead of stopping at the filling station the car kept on, apparently intending to enter the Whitehead Mill road. As two cars could not enter at once, Hoppers slowed to allow the other car to go on. Instead of going on into the Whitehead Mill road, the Chevrolet car had too much speed for the turn and crashed into Hoppers' right front fender and door.

Both cars were so seriously smashed that they had to be towed to Castevens for repairs. Mr. Hoppers had three ribs broken and his right arm bruised considerably. Mrs. Hoppers, sitting at his right, received a serious forehead injury, a bad cut on her knee, several minor bruises, and four broken ribs.

Following Hoppers about 50 feet behind were Glenn Wyatt and family of Wolf Branch, in their car. Seeing the trouble, they pulled off to the side of the highway and stopped.

Highway Patrolman Griggs was on the scene in a few minutes, and found Hoppers' car clear of Highway 18 except for four inches of the right rear wheel. He arrested Hoppers and brought him to Sparta for trial at once before Justice of the Peace Ben Wagoner, over the insistence by defendant through counsel that it be continued to a week day.

Testimony of Ray Lyles was that he was traveling at 45-50 miles per hour, and that Hoppers was going at about 5-10 miles per hour. Contention was that Hoppers did not signal his intention to turn.

Testimony of Patrolman Griggs was that Hoppers was off the highway except four inches of one rear wheel.

Testimony of Glenn Wyatt was that Hoppers was turning at about five miles per hour.

Judgment of Justice Ben Wagoner was that Hoppers was guilty of reckless driving and should pay a fine of \$5 plus costs of \$5.25 more.

"Love Never Faileth"

An Alleghany mother sends an order for the Star-Times to be sent to her son in the far west, and adds this note: "Begin with this week's issue. I have been mailing the paper to him each week for six years."

And a father comes into the office and leaves an order for the Star-Times to be sent to each of his four sons and daughters scattered in the west.

Pie Supper At Laurel Springs Friday Night

There will be a grand pie supper and cake cutting for the prettiest girl, to be followed by a square dance, at the Laurel Springs school on Friday night, March 14, beginning at 7:30 o'clock. Music will be furnished by a five piece orchestra, and the public is invited to attend.

Circle 1 of W. M. U. Will Meet Wed.

The missionary meeting of Circle No. 1 of the Baptist W. M. U. was postponed this week on account of the state meeting convening in Greensboro on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. The next meeting of Circle No. 1 will be held next Wednesday, March 19th, at 2:30 o'clock at Mrs. Amos Wagoner's, with Mrs. V. W. Sears in charge of the program.