

VOLUME 2, NO. 16

\$1.00 a Year in Alleghany County

SPARTA, N. C., FRIDAY MORNING, MAY 30, 1941

\$1.50 a Year Out of County

PUBLISHED WEEKLY

People
YOU KNOW
In Alleghany
By Staff Writer

JOHN L. JOINES

Mention the name of John L. Joines in almost any group of individuals in Alleghany county and someone in the group will be bound to say, "Now there's a really fine old man. You ought to know him."

But most everybody in this section of the mountains knows him already. Mr. Joines, with his snow-white whiskers, is a familiar figure to both young and old. And he really is a fine old man. Back there before there were any automobiles and the town of Sparta was hardly more than a place on one side of the road, Mr. Joines was driving a team of horses across the rugged mountains of Alleghany and surrounding counties, selling farm products to the families along his route. Disagreeable weather never kept him from making his periodical rounds. In fact, it was often necessary to spend the night out on a mountain when the rains came and the mud got too deep for the wagon.

Mr. Joines, in his youth, worked for quite some time as a carpenter, but the greater portion of his life has been spent as a farmer and cattle raiser.

Overshadowing his means of livelihood, however, has been his invaluable activity as a member of the Masonic lodge of Sparta. Having been a member around 50 years, he has held, at one time or another, practically every office in the local organization. Without fear of contradiction, it is safe to say that he undoubtedly is the best Masonic worker in Alleghany county. In honor of his great work, a huge photograph of him hangs in the Masonic hall here today.

(Continued on Page Four)

COTTON FOR MATTRESS
PROJECT EXPECTED SOON

Cotton needed in the manufacture of mattresses at the project's headquarters here still has not arrived, it was learned yesterday, and those persons holding applications, entitling them to material, are advised that the lint is expected to arrive certainly within the next week. Several hundred people in the county have made mattresses, and several hundred more are expected to do so. Deadline for applications was April 30.

OFFICIALS CLOSE
HIGHWAY NO. 18

Highway 18 was closed to traffic early this week preparatory to top surfacing the finished section out of Sparta, which is nearly two miles long. It was announced yesterday.

Officials of the state highway and public works commission are in charge of the present work on Highway 18. Other work on the highway was accomplished by the WPA.

Another section to Galax is slated to be completed and ready for surfacing at an early date.

Improvement on several other roads in the county is going forward rapidly through the use of WPA workers and prisoners in the county.

USO Organized In
County; Drive For
Funds Begins Tues.Service Organization Proposes
to Foster Morale Among
Defense Workers.

TRANSOU CHAIRMAN

Fortified by the wealth of experience gained through their activities in the last war, the six great welfare agencies of the nation have joined their efforts through a single coordinating body—United Service Organization for National Defense—and an appeal to the people of Alleghany county for needed funds will be made during the three-week period beginning June 3.

Last weekend a county USO was organized with Eugene Transou as chairman, Rev. R. L. Berry as secretary, Mrs. Marjorie Choate as treasurer, and Rev. C. W. Ervin as publicity secretary. A canvassing committee has been organized also, which includes a solicitor in every community in the county.

Agencies asked to cooperate in the program are the Young Men's Christian association, the Young Women's Christian association, the Salvation Army, the Jewish Welfare board, the National Catholic Community service, and the National Travelers Aid association.

Meeting Tomorrow

Canvassers whose names are listed in this story are urgently invited to attend a meeting in the county office and assembly building tomorrow afternoon at 3 o'clock. At the meeting, the work of the USO will be explained in detail and suggestions offered to community canvassers.

The USO plans to expand the activities of the six agencies by setting up units adjacent to camps, naval stations, and defense industries throughout the United States and its overseas bases, so that the influence and comfort of the American home community may be brought to those who have been separated from their homes in the service of their community.

In buildings provided, furnished and equipped by the government for the purpose, the USO constituent agencies will only furnish their own community resources for the maintenance of morale.

Their activities, benefiting not only the men but the women involved in our national defense program, will include religious service; personal counsel and guidance; social events and entertainment; group activities in dramatics, music and crafts; distribution of literature; information facilities; transportation and other aid to service men on leave and other workers in transit.

Money Needed

To pay for these activities, USO has undertaken a national campaign to raise \$10,765,000. This amount, which is exclusively for their budgets for these expanded and emergency operations, will cover the projected defense center activities of the constituent agencies for a year. Alleghany county's share in the funds to be raised is \$125, but officials are hoping to raise even more.

Following are the names of persons, in each community, who have been authorized to assist in the campaign for funds: Sparta, (Continued on Page Eight)

MAY BE DRAFTED



Dent B. Pugh, of Topia, who made an outstanding record at the Piney Creek high school from which he graduated in 1940, is one of the county's registrants now in line for drafting in the near future. His senior year in school, Dent was president of the senior class, president of the F. F. A. chapter and president of the Epworth league at Piney Creek.

Town Asks For
Hearing With R.
E. A. OfficialsBoard Met This Week and Dis-
approved of Proposed Sale
Of Utilities Co.

At a special meeting of the Sparta town council, held in Mayor Floyd Crouse's office Tuesday night, the board went on record as disapproving the proposed sale of the local power company to the Blue Ridge Electric Membership corporation, which is slated to become effective in July.

It was pointed out that the Northwest Carolina Utilities has been giving the towns of Sparta and Roaring Gap excellent service and that the rates charged are reasonable.

At the same time, the board authorized that a request to the REA co-op for a hearing be made. Some of the important questions raised are: Will the REA expect the present town customers to pay a \$5.00 membership fee? What will be the rates of the REA? How will operation and service be maintained?

Suggestions of the possibility of the town buying and operating the local power franchise were made. It was further pointed out that the town and county will lose a good taxpayer if the purchase goes through. No date for the hearing has been set.

The Blue Ridge co-op has agreed to buy most all of the property of the Northwest Carolina Utilities in Alleghany, Ashe and Watauga counties for \$170,000. It was also proposed to launch a \$100,000 improvement program on these lines, and to maintain branch offices. The co-op is now serving around 500 farm families in this county and a total of 3,200 farmers in four counties. It is said (Continued on Page Four)

British Navy Scores Big Hit;
Nazis Fight Hard For Crete

This week while the entire world listened with interest to the vow by President Roosevelt that the U. S. would deliver arms safely to England by any step needed, activity in Europe switched to the sea where Tuesday, the British sunk the new 35,000-ton German battleship, Bismarck after five days of sea warfare.

Thus was avenged, in such a furious display of British naval might as had not been seen before in this war, the one great victim of the Bismarck's short career, the 41,100-ton British battle cruiser Hood.

She carried 1,300 men and the German Admiral Guenther Luetjens, and her loss was the greatest suffered at sea by the Nazis estimated at 18,000, enlarged their

hold-on a seven-mile stretch of plain around Malemi and Britain announced loss of two new cruisers and four destroyers in Cretan waters in history's greatest air-naval battle.

The Nazi invaders are constantly being reinforced by new parachutists, but Britain also is rushing up fresh manpower, while the fleet's sacrifices have blocked German attempts to land from sea, the British said.

The ships lost, all apparently since the war began.

A like pursuit went on today for the 10,000-ton German cruiser Prinz Eugen, which apparently fled and left the Bismarck to fight it out all alone.

Possession of Crete hung in the balance last night as air-borne (Continued on Page Four)

Tax Books List
16,892 Head Of
Livestock HereValuation is \$264,785, Figure
Considerably Lower Than
That of Last Year.

BEEF CATTLE NEXT

In Alleghany county there are 16,892 head of livestock, including horses, mules, sheep, hogs, milk cows and all other cattle, with a tax valuation of \$264,785, a check-up of the recap figures yesterday revealed.

This figure represents 569 fewer animals in the county than in 1940, and the valuation naturally is much lower. Last year there was listed a total of 17,461 head of livestock with a valuation of over \$325,000.

A considerable gain was shown in the milk cattle column. Listed for taxation this year are 4,465 milk cows, valued at \$128,691, as compared with 4,198 in 1940, valued at \$125,924. As for beef cattle, the figure of 5,116 represents 288 fewer animals, but the valuation is \$141,183, as compared with \$100,000 in 1940.

Sheep showed a gain of 31 in number over last year, and an increase in valuation of \$1,416. The present number is 3,253, with a valuation of \$11,039.

Other livestock is listed as follows: horses 1,275, valued at \$72,223; mules 92, valued at \$5,480; goats 939, valued at \$939; hogs 1,752, valued at \$21,052.

Rabbits and poultry in the county number 23,116, with a valuation of \$10,498. Dogs number 192 and are valued at \$2,678.

A total of 904 motor vehicles are listed, with a valuation of \$143,335. Those paying poll tax number 1,345, amounting to \$2,690.

Acres of land listed on the books number 138,345. This land is valued at \$2,736,014. Real and personal property is listed at \$3,891,719. Average valuation of land per acre in the county is listed at around \$19.00.

CCC Camp Gets
More EnrolleesWelfare Department Sends 14
Young Men to Join Corps
at Laurel Springs.

With the CCC camp at Laurel Springs ready to operate with a capacity enrollment of 195, the county welfare department during the past week has sent the camp a total of 14 men and may, it is understood, send more later.

Accepted for enrollment last week were Howard Crouse, of Glade Valley; Don Dancy, Coy Mabe, Clarence Pruitt, Dean Taylor, Laurel Springs; Clarence McGrady, Edwards Crossroads; Wade Miles, Cherry Lane; Ares Taylor, Charles Whitaker and Raymond Woodruff, Sparta.

Enrolled on May 22 were Geo. Farley, of Whitehead, and Wayne Roberts, of Ennice. Bert Richardson, of Barrett, and Ray Tompkins, of Ennice, were enrolled on Wednesday of this week.

Altogether, the Laurel Springs camp was prepared to receive 28 new men on Wednesday.

Glenn Richardson, junior foreman at the camp, stated in town this week that a new army camp is now being constructed beyond Spruce Pine on the side of the mountain. Five buildings are being erected.

A large number of boys from Ashe, Wilkes and Surry counties were also enrolled.

Last Rites Held
For Mrs. ChoateProminent Resident of County
Is Laid to Rest in the
Joines Cemetery.

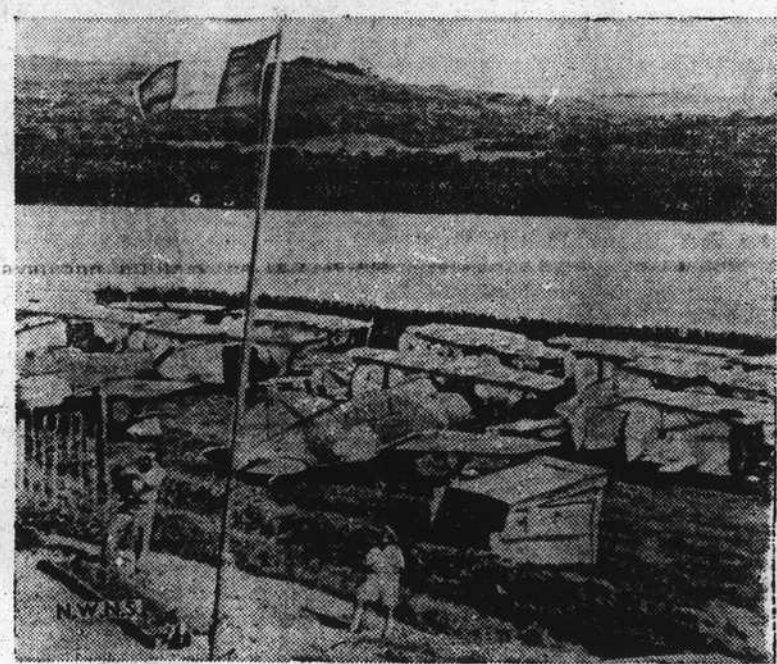
Death came Monday morning to Mrs. Martha Jane Choate, 78, of Whitehead, and burial was on Tuesday afternoon in the Joines cemetery at Whitehead.

Services were held in the Whitehead Union Baptist church and conducted by Elders Coy Walker and Johnny Toliver.

Mrs. Choate had been in ill health for a long while. She had many friends and relatives throughout this section of the mountains.

Surviving her are her husband, William Choate, of Whitehead; four sons, Guy Choate, of Bel Air, Md., John, Joe and Greeley Choate, of Sparta; three brothers and two sisters.

U. S. Built War Planes On French Isle



Scores of U. S. Built war planes, sold to the French last year when they were battling the Nazis, are pictured in a meadow on the French island of Martinique in the Caribbean sea. Reports that an infiltration of Nazi technicians was allegedly taking place on the island prompted some U. S. senate leaders to suggest the taking over of all French possessions in the Western Hemisphere, with the aid of the 21 other American republics.

Record May Drought Doing
Much Damage In AlleghanyDraft Quota For
June Announced
As 10 SelecteesLargest Group of Men Yet
Called to Go to Ft. Bragg
Next Month.

State selective service headquarters informed the local draft board early this week that Alleghany county will be expected to send 10 white registrants to Fort Bragg on June 11.

When these men leave, the county will have sent 34 to the army through the operation of the selective service program in Alleghany. Three of these have been Negroes. The quota for the county until July 1 is 39.

With seven volunteers having entered their names with the draft board, and one registrant expecting to be transferred from another state, indications are that the draft board will not be required to conscript more than two men for the next call.

In line for conscription are Wiley Edison Mabe, of Furches, and Dent Bowie Pugh, of Topia.

To date a total of 672 questionnaires have been mailed out to registrants, leaving less than 250 forms to be handled between now and July 1. The draft board is to meet again this morning and prepare 100 more questionnaires.

Next draft registration day has been set for July 1, according to Mrs. Robert M. Gambill, secretary to the draft board.

BIBLE SCHOOL BEGINS MON.

Next Monday a Daily Vacation Bible school, similar to the one which is closing in Sparta today, will get underway at the Laurel Springs Baptist church and last until June 13.

The school will be conducted by Rev. and Mrs. V. W. Sears, assisted by several members of the church.

Rural Mail Carriers To Have
Fish Fry Tomorrow Afternoon

Rural mail carriers in Alleghany county, their families, and state highway officials are planning to hold a fish fry at Cumberland Knob park on the Blue Ridge Parkway tomorrow afternoon at 4 o'clock. It was announced yesterday.

Ordinarily the mail carriers of the county have a banquet for their annual get-together. Carl Irwin, of Twin Oaks, president of the rural letter carriers association, is in charge of arrangements for the affair.

Mr. Irwin is asking the carriers, together with special guests who have been invited, to meet in Sparta at approximately 3:30 and go to the picnic grounds from there.

Following the supper, a business session will be held, at which time problems peculiar to mail carriers will be discussed.

and new officers elected for the coming year.

Plans were being made yesterday to secure one of the highway commissioners as principal speaker.

Twin Oaks Woman
Passed Saturday

Funeral services were held at the New Haven church last Sunday morning for Mrs. Mary Shumate, aged resident of Twin Oaks community, who died Saturday morning following an extended illness.

Although Mrs. Shumate had been ill for quite some time, she was still active around her home and could claim many friends throughout this section.

She is survived by her husband, Emory Shumate, of Twin Oaks.

Library Changes
Schedule During
Vacation MonthsMrs. Jones and Miss Wagoner
Will Both Serve as Librarians
This Summer.

PLAN STORY HOUR

Beginning Monday there will be a slight change in the schedule of the Sparta public library for the summer months. This change will give the people of the county an opportunity to use the library more as it will be open longer hours each day.

Mrs. Carrie Hamm Jones and Miss Madalyn Wagoner will both serve as librarians this summer. Miss Wagoner was the librarian at the Sparta elementary school last year and Mrs. Jones has served as public librarian for some time.

In addition to their own collection of books the library has a good collection of books from the North Carolina library commission and a new collection of 25 children's books belonging to WPA, but loaned through the library commission. The library is also adding new titles to its own collection each month.

An additional attraction for the young people this summer will be a story hour conducted two days each week by Miss Wagoner and Mrs. Jones. This will be held at the school building except in rainy weather when the library can be used for this purpose. Children between the ages of five and eight years will come on Tuesday from 1:30 to 3 p. m. and children from eight to twelve years are invited to come on Thursday from 1:30 to 3 p. m. A number of interesting things have been planned for the entertainment of the children and all are invited to attend.

The new schedule is as follows:

Monday—open from 9 a. m. to 5 p. m. continuously.

Tuesday—open from 9 a. m. to 5 p. m. continuously.

Wednesday—closed all day.

Thursday—open from 9 a. m. to 5 p. m. continuously.

Friday—open from 9 a. m. to 5 p. m. continuously.

Saturday—open from 10:30 to 12 a. m.—12:30 to 5 p. m.

12 a. m.—12:30 to 5 p. m.

Farmers Urged
To Mail Cards

Letters are being mailed out of the county agent's office this week urging the farmers to return the "live-at-home" cards which, when signed, express their willingness to cooperate with the agricultural workers council in the program to raise all food and feed stuffs at home during the remainder of this year.

Of the 1,500 cards mailed to farmers, only approximately 500 have been returned to R. E. Black, who is president of the council. "We want all our farmers to enroll in this program," Mr. Black said. "They owe it to our young men who are in camp."

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ANTIOCH CHURCH PLANS
TO CLEAN UP CEMETERY

Members of the Antioch church, together with other interested parties, are planning to meet there next Monday morning for the purpose of cleaning the cemetery, it was announced yesterday. Tools needed must be brought along.

During the remainder of the growing season, members of the church are planning to get together and clean the cemetery on the first and fifteenth of each month.

JOE GISH



THIS SWELL BASEBALL
WEATHER 'U GONNA CAUSE
A HEAVY TOLL ON OFFICE BOYS'
FICTITIOUS GRANDMOTHERS