



THE ROANOKE RAPIDS HERALD

CAROLINA'S FIRST
TABloid NEWSpaper



VOLUME XXVIII

ROANOKE RAPIDS, N. C.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1943

NUMBER 27

TEXTILE WORK ESSENTIAL

Another Phase of Air Warfare



U. S. Marine Corps Photo

Training at the Marine Corps base at New River, N. C., are barrage balloon squadrons equipped to perform valuable war service at any area to which they may be assigned. Balloons will continue as important implements in air warfare and United States Marines are prepared to facilitate their usefulness to the utmost when balloons are needed. Supervising the training of Marine Corps barrage balloon units is Colonel Bernard L. Smith, USMC, designer of the naval seaplane NC4 which spanned the Atlantic in 1919.



Draft Chairman Urges 18-Year Olds Register

Although Halifax County Local Draft Board No. 1 does not know of any actual instances in the territory of youths reaching their 18th birthday not registering, T. W. Mullen, chairman of the Board, made the statement this week that it was most important for them to do so. In a statement to the press, Chairman Mullen said:

"The Selective Service Law requires every man as soon as he reaches his 18th birthday to register for military service. Failure to register subjects the person failing to do so to heavy penalties. Men can register at the Local Draft Board No. 1 office in the Kidd Building, or with O. L. Curran, Littleton, at his place of business. Do not fail to attend to this important duty."

Mrs. B. T. Gibson Is New Secretary Merchant's Group

Mrs. Blair T. Gibson has been named the new secretary of the Roanoke Rapids Merchants Association, and took over her duties the first of the month. She succeeds Mrs. J. M. Sharp, who has held that position since early in 1941, but who has moved to Raleigh to join her husband there, where he is employed with a wholesale drug company.

Mrs. Gibson is a native of San Antonio, Texas. Her husband is stationed with the U. S. Navy at Charleston, S. C., where he holds the rating of chief specialist. She attended Cumberland University, Lebanon, Tennessee, and has had extensive business training and experience. She and her 7 year old daughter reside at Patterson apts. in the city.

Negro Farmer Was "Skeered;" STRANGE PARACHUTE DROPS NEAR CITY — but it wasn't sent by Nazis!

Theodore Hawkins, county Negro farmer who lives about ten miles from the city in the Lick Log community near Littleton saw one of the strangest sights he had perhaps ever beheld last Thursday morning. A small parachute floated gracefully to the ground* and made a perfect three-point landing right in his own front yard!

* While it was true the parachute did not appear to be large enough to accommodate a man, Theodore had read a lot about the war — perhaps of how Rudolph Hess landed in Ireland a couple of years ago, and it did seem strange to him. Perhaps — it was possible — the 'chute had glided to the earth of his Halifax County farm one of these miniature little Jap fellows or maybe a "Man from Mars." On the other hand, it might contain an incendiary bomb, which would blow up any minute. At last nothing happened, and Hawkins decided to investigate.

He was relieved to find that instead of a swastika or emblem-of-the-rising-sun, it contained markings which definitely established the fact it had been sent up by the U. S. Signal Corps; further investigation revealed it was about 6 feet in diameter, with a balloon attached, and contained instruments — possibly a sound detector, an antenna, and such. Hawkins didn't know much about that technical stuff and he was relieved to find it did not contain a bomb.

He took it into his house and carefully preserved it, resolving to report the incident to authorities at the first opportunity. But what with the ban on pleasure driving, and all, traffic isn't so brisk these days out the Lick Log way, and it was Tuesday afternoon of this week before Ernest Hines, a neighbor of Hawkins, found his way into the hardware store of C. A. Wyche in Roanoke Rapids and reported the strange findings of his neighbor.

Mr. Wyche advised that Ben Lancaster, who is chief observer at the Air Warning Station operated here at the filter plant, was the proper man to contact. Lancaster was promptly advised of the strange incident, whereupon he, accompanied by Jim Ingram — who also works for the Sanitary District — and a Herald reporter, set off for the Lick Log community.

Sure enough, there it was. A little small, but none-the-less a real live parachute, with "instruments" intact. After questioning the Negro man, Lancaster brought the parachute to his office, and after conferring with Brigadier General Willis R. Taylor, in charge of ground force observations of the Army at Norfolk, he was advised to send it with instruments intact, to the U. S. Signal Corps in Washington. He complied with the instructions and it is now a "closed

(Continued On Page 8 - Sec. A)

RULING DOES NOT APPLY TO LOCAL MILLS

Latest War Manpower Dependency Ruling For Non-Essential Industries

Production of textiles is an essential industry in the war effort and employees of local textile plants still retain the same status they did before the most recent ruling of the War Manpower Commission which came out this week.

This ruling affects men from 18 to 38 in certain industries and jobs which have been designated by the Commission as non-essential to the war effort. In their case dependency will no longer be recognized as reason for deferment, unless they transfer to a new job, such as the production of textiles which is considered essential.

Only this week, the importance of the textile industry to the war effort was stressed in a telegram to local textile officials from the War Production Board. Dated February 1 and signed by Frank L. Walton, head of the Textile Division of W. P. B., the telegram was as follows:

"Urgently request you increase your production all possible. Far more production needed for military and essential civilian needs. We expect to channel our production into most essential usage and all extra production you can make will help the war effort."

DISCUSS NEW RATIONING AT MEETING MON.

Information Officer From State Office Principal Speaker AT AUDITORIUM

The public is invited to attend an important meeting on Point Rationing which will be held at the Roanoke Rapids High School Building on Monday, February 8, at 8 p. m.

The principal speaker will be Mrs. Ruth Vick Everett, Chief State Information Officer, who will explain how Ration Book Number Two will be issued and used.

As every man, woman and child (even infant), will be given this new ration book, it is necessary that they be informed as to its proper use. This meeting is free and is open to everybody including high school students.



City and County
Boy Scouts —
join the Nation in
the celebration of their
33rd Anniversary
during NATIONAL
BOY SCOUT WEEK
February 6th to 12th
— See Scout Stories Inside