

The Big Stone Gap Post.

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No. 23

Patriotic Rally

And Flag Raising Witnessed By Over Two Thousand People Here Sunday.

Big Stone Gap had its first genuine patriotic rally Sunday afternoon, which was witnessed by more than two thousand people, who came from all sections of Wise and Lee Counties. The vacant lots in front of the postoffice, in the center of which stood a flag pole, seven to six feet high, was well filled before the speaking commenced. The speakers' stand was erected by the side of the Minor Building and was appropriately decorated with bunting and flags. Ray's Concert Band of fifteen pieces furnished excellent music, playing several national airs. A choir of ladies sang "America", "Star Spangled Banner" and "Teating Tonight on the Old Campground."

Rev. J. R. Craft opened the meeting with prayer. Gen. R. A. Ayers followed with one of the most patriotic addresses ever heard in this section. In the course of his talk he told the people of this great country was once more called upon to defend a flag that was adopted one hundred and forty years ago. Referring to the civil war struggle he said this flag would have been unsafe in this part of the state 58 years ago, but now he was thankful to say that there was no north, no south, east or west, that all were safely united and ready to defend the nation in this great struggle for democracy.

Following Gen. Ayers' address, Hon. R. T. Irvine made a strong patriotic talk, in which he briefly outlined the main causes of this great European struggle in which the United States had recently entered in their determination to destroy Prussian militarism. Mr. Irvine said it was a thrilling sight to see two thousand or more people gathered together on a damp afternoon to show they had made a determined stand to make the world safe for democracy. That this was a fight for the freedom of the seas which had been made unsafe by a tyrannical government in their willful destruction of men, women and children. This, the greatest, purest and proudest nation of the western hemisphere would no longer respect the government of Germany, who had promised the United States to desist from its ruthless submarine warfare. For hundreds of years a code of international laws was stood by and respected by all nations for the safe conveyance of citizens and commerce through the great ocean lanes, yet Germany says you can only go through them at my dictation. Shall our nation submit to this for the sake of peace? Mr. Irvine said he was fully convinced that every young man in Wise county would respond to the call on June 5th, as nothing but glory and honor would come under the selective draft, and help old Virginia, the mother of states, to take the front rank in this titanic struggle as she had done in other strifes.

Rev. Roy E. Early, of Appalachia, made a stirring patriotic speech and urged those who did not go to the front to show their patriotism by buying Liberty Bonds and increase the food production, or either eat less, the latter of which would probably apply to himself. He also asked the women to do their part in the war by joining Red Cross Societies and make

bandages for the soldiers. The flag raising took place at the conclusion of the speaking. The flag is 10x18 feet and was raised to the top of the pole while the band played "Star Spangled Banner", after which three cheers were given for the stars and stripes.

Armed Guard

Now Scouring Mountains for Outlaw Gang.

Ranoke, Va., May 31.—With representatives from the department of justice and officials of the Second Virginia regiment scouring the mountain section about St. Paul, Va., for further evidence to connect W. V. McCoy and J. W. Phipps, who are in jail here charged with conspiring against the United States government, that may develop into the worst case of attempted treason in the history of the country since the present crisis. The plot to destroy bridges, tunnels, residences, kill military men and confiscate their rifles and ammunition and to slaughter all the wealthy land owners grows in seriousness daily.

It has now practically been definitely established that McCoy's men were responsible for the theft of over 1,000 pounds of dynamite from the Dupont Powder Company at Norton Thursday night, after plans are thought to have been made that afternoon whereby the wholesale blowing up of bridges would be accomplished and that the blowing up of the New River bridge was to be the signal and the general outbreak. Conspiracy against the government seems now to have been reached into the mountain regions of West Virginia, Ohio and Kentucky, according to statements said to have been made by McCoy to men he induced to join him, that he had over 3,000 men in the mountains of these states who would be ready at the signal. Men who were supposed to have been with McCoy in his plans, but who had been forced to join him on account of fear of physical violence, are said to be responsible for the information being given to the officers of the Second Virginia, who then reported the matter to the department of justice.

Captain Waller, of Company D, Front Royal, who was stationed at Cedar Bluff, first came into possession of the oaths and declarations of war and turned them over to Colonel Leedy, who transmitted the information to the department of justice with the request that it send men to cope with the situation, otherwise he would be forced to use his men to run down the conspirators for the protection of the troops themselves.

Heart Party.

Miss Helen McCormick entertained a number of the younger set at her home last Wednesday night in honor of Miss Hannah Alover, of Charlotte, N. C.

Progressive hearts was the mode of entertainment, in which Miss Clara McCormick received the girl's prize, crepe de chine handkerchiefs, and Carl Youell the boy's prize, a pocket comb, the guest of honor, Miss Hannah Alover, receiving the guest's prize, crepe de chine handkerchiefs.

At the close of the games delicious sherbet and cake were served to the guests at the four tables by Mrs. C. F. Camp and Miss Florence McCormick.

Those present were: Misses Hannah Alover, Fannie Ray, Margaret Barron, Elizabeth Sprinkle, Virginia Baker, Elsie Taylor, Clara McCormick and Helen McCormick, Messrs. Clifford Smith, Edward Goodloe, Carl Youell, Junior McCormick and Gordon Goodloe.

Helping the Red Cross

"Why should I join the Red Cross? What can I do in it?" Perhaps oftener than any other are these two questions asked in the mighty volume of general mail pouring in at the Red Cross headquarters in Washington. The public is eager to help the Red Cross if it needs help and desires it. But there is an immense amount of misapprehension about the society—some believing it to be a charitable institution, other a woman's organization purely, while still others imagine it to be a professional society of doctors and nurses, writes Thomas R. Shupp in an exchange.

But it is none of these—it is much more. To quote and condense the presidential proclamation of President Taft defining the status of the Red Cross, it is: "The only volunteer society now authorized by this government to render aid to its land and naval forces in time of war," and when it is so engaged its doctors and nurses become part of the land and naval forces.

Thus we have in the Red Cross an official part of our fighting forces, yet supported and maintained by funds contributed by private individuals, who are also members of the Red Cross, and in any great emergency like the present maintained by the fund created by thousands and millions of small subscriptions. The Red Cross is the great gift of mercy from the public to the army and navy. It is the volunteer partner of Uncle Sam in the grim business of waging war. Can the individual, not only of the cities, but of the outlying villages and the country roads, aid in this work? And the answer to this is not only can Americans everywhere in all walks of life assist, but they must assist if this device of modern warfare is to be effected.

"What can I do?" is the universal query. In the first place you can join the Red Cross. That is the fundamental service. At the outbreak of the war in Europe the Red Cross had only a few thousand members. Now it has between 300,000 and 400,000 members, but it ought to have 3,000,000 or 4,000,000 of them. Principally from the membership fees come the funds which the Red Cross needs for its work. It costs you only \$1 to join it, either with the nearest local chapter or directly with the national headquarters in this city. A better membership is the one costing \$2 per year, because this fee pays for a subscription for the Red Cross Magazine which tells you every month what your Red Cross is doing.

You can steel your unimaginative heart to pity and still in pure selfishness or fear get value received for the membership fee, for the Red Cross can be regarded as a highly important unit in the army as a fighting machine. In these days of modern surgery and skillful nursing an extraordinary number of men wounded in battle are returned to the firing lines from the Red Cross hospitals in good bodily repair. This means smaller drafts of soldiers to fill the vacancies. In this cold-blooded way the Red Cross is taken by the government into the national strategy—to repair the rents in the first line of defense.

But if your \$1 or your \$2 is the contribution of mercy, then

you can remember that it was little more than half a century ago when there was no Red Cross, and after the great battles the wounded sometimes lay for days on the open ground and perished miserably by the thousands, when an organized, trained nursing service could have saved many of them. So it was at Solferino in 1859, where 30,000 French, Italian and Austrian wounded were uncared for—a horror that remains today in the memory of living men. The world cried out in pity then, and as a result of Solferino the international Red Cross movement was begun. Today its brassard is respected on the battlefield by all except savages.

When you have joined the Red Cross there is much personal service which you can render. If there is no chapter or auxiliary where you live you can be instrumental in forming one, because it is through this organization that the streams of supplies flow into the hospitals at the front. While women with their needles are most conspicuous in Red Cross work in time of war, yet there is work for men too. The various local headquarters will need muscle and executive direction in the work of gathering and moving supplies. Doctors obviously are needed by the Red Cross. Red Cross sanitary detachments and ambulance companies are composed of men volunteers. The sanitary detachments train men for service in the medical or sanitary branches of the army and navy.

Women anxious to serve the Red Cross can find many opportunities. Where chapters or auxiliaries are large enough so that classes of ten to twenty members may be formed, the expert instruction of the Red Cross in the training of nurses' aids may be secured. This instruction comes in three courses: Elementary hygiene and home care of the sick; home dietetics and preparation of surgical dressings. Those who take these courses and secure certificates of proficiency are eligible for appointment as nurses' aids. The Red Cross nurses are all graduates of nursing schools, but at the war hospitals there will be plenty of work which the professional nurses will not have time to do—such as the preparation of food in the diet kitchens and food for the hospital staff, and the general house work of the hospital, the supervision of which will be turned over to nurses' aids.

Only a relatively small number of women can secure these appointments, however. The great body of American women can be of best direct service to the Red Cross in the preparation of surgical dressings and hospital supplies. So far as bandages are concerned, they must be uniform in workmanship and materials, and, consequently, the instruction in their manufacture is necessary for those who would help at this point. The Red Cross, however, has many instructors in this branch, and before the war progresses many months it will be possible for women in every section of the United States to learn how to make surgical dressings.

Hospitals and the wounded will need many other supplies—such as sheets and pillow cases, pajamas, shirts, bath robes and other articles. Special instruction in the making of many of these articles is not necessary. The Red Cross fur-

nishes patterns and specifications which any needlewoman can follow easily. A letter directed to the Washington headquarters of the Red Cross will bring the writer detailed instructions to any phase of the Red Cross work that may be specified.

Pardee Items

The Ladies' Aid Society of Blackwood met at the residence of Rev. John Black on Saturday night. There was about sixty present and all had a very enjoyable time. Refreshments, consisting of ice cream, candy and cake, were served in abundance. The society is in a very prosperous condition and is increasing in membership rapidly. The excellent choir rendered several beautiful selections. The entertainment concluded with society rendering the "Star Spangled Banner," after which a beautiful silk banner was presented to the society. These good people all have our best wishes.

Rev. John Black spent last week very pleasantly at Ranoke visiting old friends and making new acquaintances. Rev. Black has a host of friends and his sermon of last Sunday, "The Man Behind You," was greatly appreciated by the large congregation.

Our progressive neighbors, James Taylor, Geo. S. Fuller and Truman Gibson have purchased new automobiles and are now having the time of their lives in speeding over the highways in the evenings and on Sundays after church.

Albert Pennington has about finished his work of drilling artesian wells at Pardee. He tells us that he never drank better water than he found here. It is clear, sparkling and healthful, containing no bacilli or injurious minerals.

Blackwood play ground for the children is about completed and the amusement features are expected this week. The "kiddies" will surely have some fun.

H. R. Adams and M. E. Wells were appointed registrars for Blackwood and Rearing Fork, respectively, to register all men between 21 and 30 years of age under the selective draft law, which was held June 5th. As a general proposition all employees about coal mines and coke ovens will not be called upon to go to the front at present as President Wilson considers these men who work to keep the nation moving are just as essential and patriotic as those who enlist and do actual fighting. It is estimated that it requires about nine men to provide food, raiment and munitions for one soldier at the front. This is your war and your country depends upon you to act the man. Show your friends and neighbors that you are a true blue American by helping Uncle Sam win the war.

All of the gardens planted are looking well and large crops are predicted. There is still plenty of vacant land for all and every one is welcome to it. The Blackwood Company will gladly furnish fertilizer from their stables free of cost.

C. F. Wright spent last week in Tennessee visiting relatives and friends. He reports having a good time but was glad to get back to our old hills again where any one with a clear conscience can sleep eight hours and awake refreshed. Mrs. Wright, during his absence, has beautifully decorated the lawn in front of their bungalow and it now has a very civilized appearance. The flower beds are surrounded with light colored brick and present a very neat appearance.

Charles J. Reed made a quick trip to Appalachia last week on business. Charles is always on the job.

H. L. Flannery, our electrical engineer, was called to the bedside of W. L. Easterling, his father-in-law, the other day. Mr. Easterling is very ill and is not expected to live.

Mart Merritt, foreman at the "high splint" mine was out for

a few days looking up old friends. Mart says Pardee is good enough for him.

E. A. Goodwyn, our genial pay roll clerk, is kept busy these days arranging for the accommodation of the crowds now coming into Pardee. He says that since the price per mine car was made \$1.00 that it is much easier for the men to figure and that it has gotten to be very popular.

In order to settle a wager Dan Southwaite and Pete Boner agreed to work from seven o'clock in the morning until six o'clock in the evening, ten hours, to see who could load the largest number of mine cars. The judge, Charles Bokus, decided in favor of Southwaite, he having loaded 13 mine cars, while Boner only had 11. Boner claims that he would have won easily if his shovel had not become over heated and burned off the handle. They are going to have another try out in a day or two.

Captain Burke has started to raise the new tittle at No. 4 and when this is completed Pardee will have a modern tittle and one to be proud of.

Telegraph Poles Wanted on Powell's River.

I will buy all the Chestnut Telegraph Poles I can get delivered at Combs, Tenn., on Powell's River, this summer and fall. Peel them now and get them ready for the summer trade. Write for prices and specifications.—C. E. Carmack, New Tazewell, Tenn. 23-24

A Surprise Marriage.

Mr. Harrison Bowles Mullins and Miss Dorothy Buchanan gave their friends quite a surprise during the Commencement at East Stone Gap last week by announcing their marriage. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Jas. M. Smith on Monday night, May 21st, in the home of the bride. Miss Buchanan took part in the Commencement play at East Stone Gap on Monday night, and as soon as her part was completed, she quietly withdrew from the school building and crossed the street to her home where she was met by the groom and the minister. The ceremony was performed in the presence of the bride's parents while the Commencement play was still in progress. The bride also took part in the program of Tuesday night, and the marriage was announced to their friends immediately after the exercises were concluded.

The bride is the attractive daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur E. Buchanan, of East Stone Gap, and the groom is the adopted son of Mr. and Mrs. James G. Mullins, of Powell's Valley, near East Stone Gap, and is employed in the store of Smith Hardware Company, of this place. They have received many warm congratulations and good wishes from their numerous friends.

Notice

I have recently been instructed by the State Fee Commission of Virginia to require all Clerks fees to be paid in advance. Pursuant to that instruction and in accordance with an opinion of the Assistant Attorney General, on this subject I hereby notify the public that on and after June the 1st, 1917, I shall require fees paid in advance from every person, firm or corporation for all work done in the Clerk's Office of every kind except suits; and when a chancery suit is commenced I shall require a deposit made of \$5.00 and law suits a deposit of \$2.50 and when the suits are decided, if upon a taxation of the cost I find that too much has been paid me I will refund the money, and if a sufficient amount has not been deposited I will then require the balance to be paid. In a case of the Commonwealth or in a suit by *informa pauperis* no fees can be required or advancement made. The State is very much interested in all the fees being paid, according to the West Fee Law under which all the Clerks are working.

W. B. HAMILTON, Clerk. This May 26, 1917.