The Social Wanderer

Dear Roamer

Or should I say "To My Valentine" It behoves all ye husbands and swains to remember that Sunday is Valentine's Day and don't say you weren't warned.

But on to some news! For a change, we have a party to write about. Even two or three.

Mrs. Julian S. Corrington will entertain on Saturday at a luncheon-bridge, which will be held at the Sophie Fisher Inn.

On Tuesday, a dessert-bridge will be given by Mrs. Bonwill Dukes at her home on Washington Ave., at one-thirty in the afternoon.

Mrs. Lawrence Price Strong wlil entertain on Saturday, Feb. 20th at a buffet luncheon in honor of her daughter, Miss Mary Jeanne Strong, whose marriage to Midshipman Paul Comegys will take place in Chicago, March 5.

Miss Helen Strong will entertain at a miscellaneous shower on Saturday night following the basket-ball in honor of her cousin the bride-to-be.

Mrs. J. Elliott Gilpin of Baltimore was a guest last week-end of Mrs. H. Clay Brown.

Miss H. Louise Wright has returned from an extended vacation to Miami Beach Fla.

Mr. Allan S. Hart left on Wednesday for Montgomery, Ala. to attend the graduation of his son, Allan, Jr., as a pilot in the U. S. Air Force.

Mr. and Mrs. William B. Usilton III and Mr. William S. Collins will leave on Friday for Baltimore to spend the week-end as guests of Miss Virginia Jones.

Miss Betty Beck, who is attending the Katherine Gibbs Secretarial School in New York, was a guest last week-end of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. Scott Beck.

Mr. and Mrs. Everett Johnstone, of Golts, are receiving congratulations on the birth of a daughter, born on Wednesday, Feb. 3 at the Kent and Queen Anne Hospital.

Mrs. A. E. Dryden, of Pensacola, Fla., will come on Friday for a week's visit with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bonwill Dukes, of Washington Ave.

Miss Harriette Welch will arrive to-day from Sag Harbor, L. I. for an extended vacation, due to the closing of schools for lack of heat.

But here it is, Lincoln's Birthday and the day of hearts and flowers just around the clock, thrice more.

Heigh-ho Soldiers! I can't send you all a special greeting, but until that REAL Valentine reaches you, ring up one to Cupid and count me as

Your Valentine,

The Wanderer

College Corner

"Doc" Slade

Now days with the war on everybody else's mind, Washington College is not going to be left out. A new schedule has been set up whereby the semester will be divided into two nine week sessions. Each student will take nine hours instead of the usual seventeen or eighteen hours. This is a system similar to the one used in summer school. Each student will be allowed half as many cuts as hours taken per week. This system was put into effect in order to allow students to complete their courses before being called for the draft. Everyone seems rather satisfied with the new system.

It was recently announced by the scholarship committee of the Interfraternity Conference that fraternity men on the Washington College campus rate fifth scholastically among fraternity men on over one hundred and seventy-four campuses throughout the country. The local Greeks dropped from the first place which they held last year to the fifth place this year even though their scholarship average is 12.65 points ahead of that of all the men in college. The only college or university in the East to attain a higher rating than Washington College was William and Mary College. The next lower rating among Eastern colleges was won by Duke University.

An exhibit of modern art is being held under the direction of the American Federation of Arts in the museum room of the Bunting Library building. This exhibit is open to the public and will continue until February tenth. The title of the exhibit is the American Scene by Living Painters.

At the beginning of this semester the registrar's records showed that nineteen students had withdrawn from college. Thirteen men of that group left for selective service, four have transferred and two are working, awaiting the draft.

Graduation has been moved up a week, making it fall on Monday, May 31 this year, President Mead announced, but there will be no night classes. Although many of these dates are subject to change, the present nine-week semester will probably end on March 27 with three or four days for examinations, and the final semester will be over on the 27 or 28 of May.

The three fraternities of the college will issue bids one day this week. This date is an unannounced one.

Dr. Carey C. Dobbs will address the regular weekly assembly of the college this Thursday. Dr. Dobbs is head of the Department of Chemistry of the college.

The local wrestling team was defeated last Friday night at Newark, Del., by the U. of Del. 25-13. The locals won three of the eight weight classes. Two of these were won by local Chestertown boys, Harry Walsh and Raymond Sutton. Walsh won in the 155 lb. Class while Sutton won at 136 lbs. This was the team's first match.

BASKETBALL

There should be a very interesting basketball game tonight (Thursday, February 11) at the local armory when the Camp Pickett cage team is brought here by Coach Kibler. It is important to note that this game was originally scheduled for Wednesday the tenth but has been changed due to other games on the road trip being taken by the Virginians. Little is known concerning the Camp team but Coach Kibler says he has some "nice ball players and it is entirely a matter of condition and the amount of practice they are able to get". Several of the players are former New York U. and Long Island U. players. We are all positive that Coach Kibler will bring a representative team here and one that will give us a good game.

LOAN OFFICIALS WARNS FARMERS POST-WAR SLUMP

The relative prosperity of agriculture is reflected in payment of Federal Land Bank loans, according to Harry E. Holsinger, secretary and treasurer of the Caroline County Farm Loan Association, who warned members to prepare for another depression after the war, at the annual meeting held in Denton last week.

Twenty-one of the 255 units, including Federal Land Bank loans, land commissioner loans and real estate loans, were paid last year. Eleven of the 117 Federal Land Bank loans were paid.

Eighty per cent. of the business of the association originated in 1933 and 1934 and farmers will run into the same conditions after the war, Mr. Holsinger said. Provision has been made for future payments, if farmers have excess money, with interest allowed.

Noting the progress of co-operative lending agencies, Mr. Holsinger stated that commercial agencies have loaned $425,000 in mortgages and short-term credit, while Government agencies have loaned $575,000.

Layman J. Redden, Denton attorney, declared the whole Land Bank system is in jeojardy of becoming a liquidating agency rather than a service agency, if all loans are going to be paid. Mr. Redden said:

"The Federal Land Bank system needs to be checked up because we are going to need it. The small amount of loans is not due to strictness, but to lethargy of the bank and of individuals."

Mr. Redden paid tribute to the Caroline county association, which has been thoroughly solvent since its inception.

While they have shown a liberal spirit, they have made good, sound loans, he added.

Harry E. Holsinger, secretary and treasurer of the group office of the five county associations, Kent, Queen Anne's, Talbot, Dorchester and Caroline counties, at Easton, read the financial report.

Howard Harris of Preston, vice-president, presided.

The election of three directors took place. William S. Carroll of Ridgely was elected to fill the unexpired term of Harlan Harrington; William M. Garey was named to succeed Norman Taylor, who is in Baltimore, and John W. Altfather of Denton was re-elected. Other directors are John Shaffer of Denton and Howard Harris of Preston.

The directors organized by the election of the following officers: President, John W. Altfather; vice-president, Howard Harris; secretary and treasurer, Harry E. Holsinger of Ridgely.

Mr. Holsinger has served as secretary and treasurer of the Caroline County National Farm Loan Association for 26 years.

—V—

No Meaning

All rules about open or shut windows at night are meaningless in a smoky city.

Washington Digest

Nazi Submarine Menace Is Allies' Chief Problem

Pre-Fabricated U-Boats Said to Boost German Output; 'Vanishing Luftwaffe' Puzzles United Nations' Military Observers.

By BAUKHAGE
News Analyst and Commentator.

WNU Service, 1343 H Street, N. W. Washington, D. C.

"It will be a long and bitter war." That was the remark of the Australian minister of defense in a recent interview. Two days later, I heard a general, who had visited many fronts, make a similar statement. You have heard the same prediction made from dozens of officials. And the strange thing is, it is usually preceded with an account of Allied successes. Nothing but a "but" stands between the enumeration of victories achieved and the prediction of the long, hard road ahead.

Since this perplexed me, I tried to get a concrete answer from various persons as to just what lies on the long, hard road. Out of the answers, two obstacles stand out, the submarine and the story of the "vanishing Luttwaffe." Only recently has it been definitely revealed that the enemy's greatest and most effective weapon is the submarine. For a long time, the British permitted only the most general statements regarding the sinking of Allied or even neutral ships by U-boats. Lately, because it was realized that the people were in ignorance of the extent of this menace, more detailed statements have been made, although still no figures were given out.

We know that America is building ships faster than American ships the beng sunk. We know that the margin between launchings and sinkings is very narrow. And we know that launchings alone do not really balance sinkings hull for hull because the enemy sinks loaded ships—valuable cargoes are destroyed—trained men not easily or immediately replaceable are killed or at least taken out of action for long periods_gaps are left in the war effort with each lost cargo.

When I was in Berlin covering the outbreak of the European war in 1939, I heard a great deal of talk about Germany's counter-blockade, how the Nazis could fill seas with their U-boats. There was much talk of the great numbers which could be produced by the American method of the assembly line. I had no idea how much truth there was in those statements. Then in the months that followed, not much was said about the U-boats. For a period when they were operating on our coasts, America was conscious of their presence but when they were driven out of sight of our shores, they were driven out of mind as well.

* * *

Nazi Boasts Largely Confirmed

Now we learn how great their depredations are on the shipping lanes where they converge in the eastern Atlantic, confirming to some degree the German boasts which are sounding again. It is stated by British naval observers that the Germans are pre-fabricating the subs, making the parts in factories scattered all over the Reich and assembling them in great underground caverns hewn out of the rock or covered with concrete on the shores of the Bay of Biscay in France.

Therein lies a clear and simple explanation of the Allies' greatest problem, the chief obstacle on the "long, hard road."

The second obstacle may be a fancied one but it is real in the minds of many. The unknown is usually more terrible than the known and perhaps this one is at least partly a myth but no hard-headed realist can afford to underestimate the enemy's potentialities.

Those who believe this "obstacle" exists, say it is hidden behind the mystery of "the vanishing Luftwaffe."

According to military men, there are at present very few German planes on the Russian front. I heard a recent estimate of one-seventh as many as a year ago.

There are not many German planes over Africa—the Allies have at least achieved parity in air power. Where is the German Luftwaffe? Its presence darkened the skies of Europe once—has it really vanished? Been used up? Worn out? The factories which turn out replacements all destroyed by Allied bombers? Is its necessary fuel and lubrication exhausted? Some people think that this, at least to a large degree, is true. But that explanation does not seem reasonable.

* * *

German Advances In Synthetic Gas

We know that Germany has made remarkable advances in the manufacture of synthetic gasoline and oils. We know that some oil has been retrieved from the Maikop oil fields in Russia, new ones developed in Austria.

If Germany is not yet starved of gasoline and lubricants, if the Luftwaffe has not really disappeared from the earth, its absence from the air may have another meaning. We know that in spite of the heavy German losses in men and materal in Russia, Germany still has a large and powerful army. Possibly over 300 fully equipped divisions—trained men.

It is estimated that aside from soliders engaged in Russia and North Africa, the garrisons in the occupied countries, there must be a striking mobile army of a million men and more. Of course, these are estimates but they are not overestimates. And besides this army there is the "vanished Luftwaffe." The assumption is that this great army like the airforce is resting, conserving and building up its strength for one of two things: either a long, last stand defense of the borders of the Reich or one more powerful offensive.

Meanwhile, we konw that every day that Japan is allowed to occupy the rich possessions of her stolen empire, she is nearer to the exploitation of their resources, the developement of which will make her stronger. And every day she is left undisturbed by a major attack, she is able to increase her fortifications, wear down the Chinese and spread her "silver bullets," among the less loyal war-lord followers on the fringe of Chiang Kai-Shek's central army.

There are two factors which make the road ahead a hard one—the present successful operation and the rapid replacement of the German submarine flotilla and the probability that Germany is holding back a powerful army and air force either for another telling blow or to defend its strongly fortified terrain.

* * *

Ideologies—Put Them On Ice?

As I go wandering round the town taking a look in every quarter—with apologies to Wan-Eyed Reilly—I have acquired data in the last few days that have convinced me that we will have to expunge the word ideology from the bright lexicon of war, if we are going to win.

I have observed three places where the ideologies have gotten in and done more damage than a buffalo moth in an overstuffed sofa.

Of course in North Africa—it may be the climate or the rainy season—ideologies have done some of their most devastating work. I have conversed with an army officer, an official, who knows that terrain and also what it produces, a newspaper philosopher and a radical—all of them look at the situation on the shores of the Mediterranean a little differently. The official explains that the politics are very important—the radical, happy over the success against all Fascists, but infuriated over using them even to help defeat themselves, shouts—"We should have shot Darlan the day after he served his purpose." "Well" remarks the official, "somebody did, didn't they?" The army officer calls the whole controversy a backyard row that will be forgotten as ground dries up and the Allies get a few victories.

But the correspondent philosopher paused to analyze.

He said: "You have heard that one thing that greatly improved the morale in the Russian army was making the officers supreme and removing the authority of the commissars which were originally placed at their elbows. You know the Russian officers could make no move without the okay of the commissar and yet the officer was responsible if anything went wrong. Now, the officer has the final word—many of the former commissars who had military training have become officers.

BRIEFS . . . by Baukhage

The Swedish Labor federation reports that the number of strikes, and workers involved, during 1942, was the lowest ever recorded. Only 34 strikes, with some 1,922 workers involved, were reported. The number of lost working days totaled 94,000. Only three times before in the history of Sweden's labor, have there been a less number of working days lost through strikes.

Feed grain supplies are 12 per cent larger, hay supplies are 9 per cent larger, and supplies of grain and hay per animal on farms are somewhat larger than they were this time last year.

* * *

This year, civilians will probably eat more peanut butter than ever before, because peanut butter is high in both protein and fat.

Financial Report Of Ladies Auxiliary

The Ladies Auxiliary of the Chestertown Volunteer Fire Company met on Wednesday night, Feb. 3rd for the annual election of officers. The present officers were re-elected.

President, Mrs. Leonard Needles
Vice-Pres., Mrs. Medford Brooks
Secretary, Miss Bessie Dwyer
Treasurer, Mrs. Elmer C. Thomas

The Treasurer's annual report was given as follows:

Receipts

Membership dues	69.00
Banquets	513.40
Bake	38.72
Bingo and Card Parties	115.75
Rent of Kitchen	40.00
Donations	35.25
Suppers sold to waitresses after banquets	30.51
	$842.43
Bal. in bank Feb. 1, 1942	$284.33
	$1126.76

Expenses

One-half monthly expenses of Janitor and lights	270.18
Food bought for banquets	255.58
Lanudry	12.41
Ice	4.80
Gas	3.80
Insurance	9.84
Equipment in kitchen	12.85
Firemen Lunches	14.35
Incidentals	25.72
Donations to Fire Co.	321.60
	931.11
Bal. in Bank Feb. 1, 1943	195.65
	$1126.76

—V—

Lack Of Sugar Halts Bootlegging

Representatives of the Alcoholic Tax Commission, who a few years ago were working overtime tracking down illegal stills, are now doing detail work for the commission due to the inability of bootleggers to secure sugar. A squad in Chestertown this week were investigating liquor stores. Occasionally a molasses sweetened still is found but the business is slow.

—V—

Mikhailovitch Still Busy

One of the latest exploits of the Jugoslav patriot army under General Mikhailovitch was to put the Belgrade to Zagreb railway out of commission for a week.

Woodall—Spray

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Woodall announce the marriage of their daughter Mary Geneva to Mr. Robert Spray, son of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Spray. The ceremony was performed at the Sacred Heart Church, at 9 o'clock in the morning on Thursday, Feb. 4, by the Rev. Father Conway.

The bride, who wore a gown of light blue with navy accessories, was attended by her sister, Mrs. Richard Schauber, who was also attired in light blue. Both wore corsages of white flowers.

The groom had as his best man, Mr. James Bailey.

A wedding breakfast followed for the immediate families at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Schauber.

Mr. and Mrs. Spray will reside near Still Pond.

Grow Hedges on Farm

A variety of hedge plants may be grown on farms for fences and protective screens, as well as for ornamental purposes.

—V—

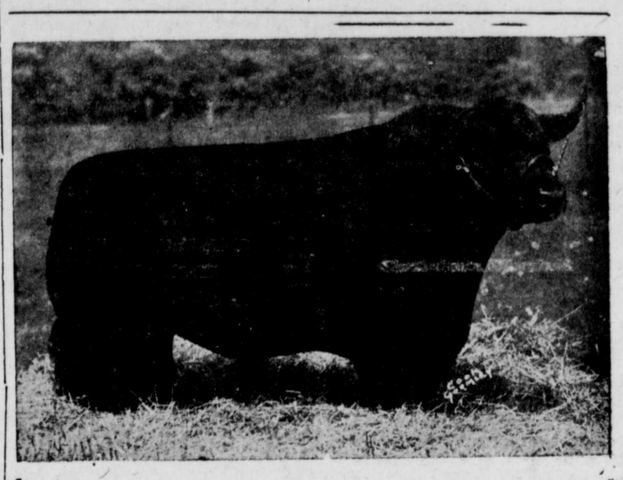
'Tree Farms' for Conservation

Another example of the conservation program sponsored by the timber industry is the system of "tree farms" recently established in Alabama, where certificates were given individuals and companies employing approved forestry principles.

—V—

Reducing Fuel Oil Consumption

If the U. S. could reduce its consumption of fuel oils 10 per cent below last year's consumption, the resultant saving would equal the combined capacity of 566 ocean-going tankers—and we have no tankers to spare these days for the dangerous coastwise haul.



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