Chestertown Transcript.

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TOLCHESTER BOAT DENIED FUEL OIL BY RATION BOARD

The fuel oil panel of the Baltimore War Price and Rationing Board Wednesday refused the application of the Tolchester Lines, Inc., for 250,000 gallons of fuel oil for the operation of the Bay ferry, the Bear Mountain, for the next three months.

The company holds rations over 162,000 gallons of fuel oil for the Francis Scott Key, bay boat also operating on the Baltimore-Tolchester run. The refusing the ration for the Bear Mountain, tied up at Peir 16, Light street for the last three weeks, the board held that the Francis Scott Key was adequate for necessary transportation across the bay.

Officers of the company said they would appeal the board's decision to the regional OPA office at New York, contending that the board is "inconsistent" in nullifying OPA rules which permit rations to common carriers without question.

A spokesman for the rationing board asserted the ration for the Bear Mountain was refused after it was shown "that the Francis Scott Key, also operated by the company, carried a majority of pleasure-seekers and not essential travelers and freight, and that it has room to carry more travelers without putting on another boat which, in a year's time, would consume more than a million gallons of fuel oil."

"The company wants to triple its load of excursionists, using fuel oil which was so precious last winter that we doled it out to householders for necessary home heat at the rate of twenty-five and fifty gallons," the board spokesman said.

The Francis Scott Key carries 900 passengers, while the Bear Mountain has a capacity of 2,100 passengers.

The company said it was turning away 500 to 2,500 prospective passengers daily and that the Key was not adequate alone to carry the traffic.

"Many of these people are war workers who use the boat to make bus connections to their homes at Betterton, Rock Hall and Chestertown," the company asserted.

"But the issue at stake is not that we carry pleasure seekers. So long as we are a public transportation system and a common carrier, it is prescribed in OPA rules that we be permitted fuel oil for our operations."

The company reported that in June, after an advertisement announcing that the Francis Scott Key was making excursions to Tolchester, the central rationing board called a hearing to determine whether the fuel oil ration for the Key should be revoked.

The company, in a brief filed with the board, contended it carried passenger and freight in the run to Tolchester, and the board permitted continuance of the ration, officers said.

The Francis Scott Key is 175 feet long and 400 net tons, while the Bear Mountain, on lease to the Tolchester Lines, Inc., is much larger.

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Quaker Neck Farms Cut Heavy Crops

While the average yields of this season's wheat crops in Kent county range from 5 to 17 bushels per acre, the lowest in many years, crops threshed on Fair Hope Farm in Quaker Neck, tilled by Thomas R. Brockson and owned by Mr. and Mrs. Charles P. Stokes and on the farm of Harry Nicols, in the same section, proved exceptions to the rule.

The average yield on the Fair Hope farm from a 28-acre tillage was 31 bushels per acre, all of which has been sold for the fall wheat seeding at $1.50 per bushel. The yield on the Nicols farm is reported to have been 25 bushels per acre from the entire tillage.

Many growers believe that unfavorable weather conditions at the sowing season last fall and the cold weather last April were the causes of the poorest yields in the county in recent years.

Most of the crops are being sold under the government loan contracts which net the growers from $1.33 to $1.35 per bushel, according to grade.

—V—

Rains during the past several days have greatly aided growing crops on the farms of the county as well as pasture fields and numerous victory gardens. In many sections of the county corn had begun to wilt badly, while tomatoes were showing the need of rain. Parched pastures were causing a decrease in milk production. Sections of the county have had no rain for the past three weeks.

To Head Legion

Charles E. Eshman

Bill Reid, Commander of the Frank M. Jarman Post No. 36, American Legion, will tender his resignation at a crab feast to be held at Legion headquarters this evening. Commander Reid's resignation is due to his leaving Kent County to accept a position in Buffalo, New York after several years of employment at Andelot Stock Farms.

Commander Reid was elected to the local Legion post in 1942 and reelected May 30, 1943. During his tenure of office the Frank M. Jarman Post No. 36 has made a fine record its membership being one of the largest in its history. Activities included the presentation of a flag to the Circuit Court of Kent County with appropriate ceremonies. This flag has become a permanent fixture beside the Judges Bench in the Court Room. Commander Reid served as a Sergeant in a crack Scottish Regiment during World War No. 1.

Charles Eshman First Vice Commander of the Post will automatically become Commander during the unexpired term, that is until May 30, 1944, and will be assisted in the Posts management by Norman F. Peterson, Post Adjutant.

The crab feast will follow the business session this evening.

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COMMITTEES INSTALLED BY LIONS CLUB

Officers for the Chestertown Lions Club have been installed and chairmen of the committees named.

Present officers are: President, John Evans Townshend; Sec.-Treas., Robert Rattigan, but due to his induction into the Army; 1st vice-president, Willis Wells has been appointed to serve. 1st vice-president, Willis Wells; 2nd vice-president, S. Skirven Startt; 3rd vice-president, C. Lee Gill; Lion Tamer, Ernest Leverage; Tail-twister, Preston P. Heck. Immediate past president, Burton Vansant.

Directors, James Garland, John Klein, Earl Cooper and Jack Kieffer.

Committees— Attendance, Willis Wells; Constitution and By-Laws, Preston P. Heck; Convention, James B. Kirby; Finance, James Garland; Lions Education, S. Skirven Startt; Membership, Burton Vansant; Program, Jack Kieffer; Publicity and Bulletin Ed. William S. Collins.

Service Committees — Boys and Girls, Earl Cooper; Citizenship and Patrotism, Preston P. Heck; Civic Improvement, William S. Collins· Community Betterment, Burton Vansant; Education, S. Skirven Startt; Health and Welfare, John Klein; Safety, James Garlan; Sight Conservation and Blind, C. Lee Gill.

—V—

Telephone Magazine Honors Men In Service

The July issue of **'The Transmitter,** Chesapeake & Potomac Telephone Co. employees magazine honors its men and women in our country's armed forces by printing a service flag on the inside cover page of that publication. The printed flag contains 2053 blue stars for those now serving and 5 gold stars for those who have lost their lives in the present conflict. The stars are printed on a white background and bordered with a wide stripe of red, with a small gold edge.

Turning to the center of the magazine, there is a two-page tinted plaque, which contains the names of the service men. Included in the group are two from Chestertown, Charles Crowding, U. S. Army and Orville Wright, U. S. Marines.

SHERIFF'S RUSE OUTWITS CRAP SHOOTERS IN RAID

Acting upon numerous complaints from law abiding residents of one of the Negro settlements of the city about crap games, Sheriff Henry Gsell and his deputy, Walter Kulley last week adopted a successful coup to capture a number of Negroes who had been playing the game openly during the week-ends at the corner of College Avenue and Calvert Streets.

The offenders were in the habit of employing spies who were placed at vantage points in the vicinity so that when the police officers would appear the players were warned and the gambling would cease before the officers could get anywhere near them.

Last week the sheriff and his deputy procured a truck, and driving to College Avenue, where they were able to drive right up to the game and witness it before being discovered by the gamblers.

At this time five Negroes were arrested and lodged in the county jail.

Farmers of the county who are seriously in need of laborers to till and harvest their crops, went bail for the men, who were paroled in the custody of the farmers at a hearing held before County Judge Clarence M. Melvin, Jr.

On Sunday evening the officers were notified that the crap games were again underway on the same corner., so employing the tatics, but this time using an automobile which the negroes did not recognize the Sheriff, his Deputy and town officer Howard Hadaway rounded up five more culprits. All of the cases were heard by Judge Melvin in the Magistrate's Court on Monday night and paid fines of 10 dollars and costs, with the exception of one who was carrying in his pocket, a home-made "black jack". He was fined 25 dollars and costs in addition to the 10 dollars and costs for shooting crap. The officers stated that the weapon was one of the deadliest they had ever seen.

—V—

Heavy Crop Loss From Beetles Here

Japanese beetles have never been so numerous and destructive in this section as during the past two weeks. The pests have attacked the growing corn and soybean crops in the countryside, as well as apple and other fruit orchards, riddling both leaves and fruit. Tomato patches have not been touched, so far.

The courthouse green here and the campus at Washington College, where the pests have attacked the valuable shade trees, have the appearance of the autumn season. Choice flowers and shrubbery in the flower yards of the city have been ruined.

Millions of the beetles have been caught in traps being used in the yards and otherwise, but as fast as they are caught other swarms appear. It would be difficult to estimate the amount of the damage done to crops and shrubbery since the pests made their first appearance the latter part of June.

Albert Lee who is in charge of the Beetle control in Kent said this week that they would be on the decline beginning next week.

—V—

Officers Celebrate Same Birthday

Sheriff Henry Gsell.

Trooper John (Barney) Channell..

Deputy Sheriff Edward Squires, Millington.

Thursday, July 29, according to the signs of the Zodiac, marks Leo to rule the destiny of its children. Under this symbol these people are told "to stop to deliberate, to keep minds on their work. You've big work to do and we need your cheerful help." The above county officers celebrating birthdays are congratulated ,and we might add their horoscope is most appropriate.

—V—

Makes Good Living Also Enjoys Fishing

Reports from Rock Hall tell of a novel plan adopted by a 19-year-old commercial fisherman of that town for making a profitable living during the fishing season. Using a motor boat for catching rock fish he has tied to the sides and stern of the boat a number of lines with artificial lures for bait, which are known to fishing guides as "dummies." With the assistance of one person in watching the dummies while he and his assistant use their rods and reels, the young fisherman is reported to be making an average of $20 per day on the sale of the catch of fish.

OIL RATIONS GO OUT TO KENT HOME OWNERS

The Kent County Ration Board has completed the mailing of 900 fuel oil rations for homes and offices in Kent County. Practically the entire mailing was for homes as only thirty office rations have been issued due to the handling of the conversion forms.

Other rations are being mailed out as fast as renewal applications are received but fuel oil users in homes cannot expect to receive their rations until they fill in and mail the renewal forms to their Ration Board. Rations for offices cannot be mailed out until both renewal application and conversion form is in the hands of the Ration Board.

How To Figure Your Ration

On the left of the fuel oil sheet are stamps showing numbers in circles. These stamps are for change and represent the number of gallons indicated by the number within the circle. This is also true of the circle stamps on the bottom row at right. The other stamps on the right are unit coupons covering certain periods. Each unit represents ten gallons. The number above the word unit indicates the number of units on each stamp. Under the word unit is "Period, 1, 2, 3" etc., up to and including period 5. This indicates the time perod in which the stamps may be used. Period 1 is from July 1st to January 3rd. Dates of other perods have not been announced.

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Rock Hall Cannery Starts Tomato Packing

The Rock Hall Cannery, owned and operated by Lowry Harrison, has begun the packing of early tomatoes from large tillages for which he has contracted with growers in the lower section of the county. The reported contract price of 45 cents per basket will be the prevailing contract price throughout this county this year.

The Vita Foods Products cannery here has started the packing of large quantities of green tomatoes for pickling which are being brought in the open market.

It is probable that Kent County growers will follow the lead of the Queen Anne's County Labor Committee in adopting a scale of wages, for harvesting crops now maturing, which includes 6 cents a basket for picking tomatoes, with a price of 40 cents an hour for cutting off corn, and 35 cents an hour for all other farm work, with 5 cents added in the case of laborers who work without board.

—V—

Farm Bureau Outing Cancellation Planned

Frank O. Sutton, secretary of the Kent County Farm Bureau Cooperative here, announced yesterday that the Cooperative officials will probably abandon the annual Farmers Picnic at Tolchester Beach this year unless the ban on pleasure driving is lifted. Last year's picnic was omitted.

Solomon Chaires, bookkeeper in the Peopes Bank of Chestertown for a number of years, resigned and will take a month's vacation before joining the staff of the Navy Yard in Washington. Mrs. Hackett Emerson has been appointed to the vacancy in the bank.

—V—

Ceiling Raised on Old Age Aid in Kent County

The Kent County Board of Welfare had been notified by J. Milton Patterson, director of the State Department of Welfare that, in accordance with an act passed by the recent session of the State Legislature, the maximum ceiling of old age assistance was raised from $30 to $40 monthly. The new ceiling permits the $40 rate only in extraordinary cases. The average monthly payment for old age assistance by the local Board of Welfare is $22.

—V—

County Relief Cases Show Decline

Mrs. Margaret Massey, secretary to the Kent County Welfare Board, in her report to the board last week, shows that the total expense of county relief for June amounted to $3,081.77, of which 140 old age pensioners, who are disqualified for employment, received $2,125.47, a total of 15 dependent families with 44 children received $440.71, 11 cases of needy blind received $231.28, while 17 cases on general relief received $284.31. The number of cases on relief in the county has been materially reduced during the year by increased employment of many persons on the relief rolls.

KENT DAIRY SHOW TO BE AT GALENA NEXT THURSDAY

Loses Life In Plane Accident

Ensign William Edward Miller

A telegram from the U. S. Naval Department received here Tuesday told of the death of Ensign William Edward Miller, aged 21, who was killed while on duty at a Naval Air Station Base in Jacksonville, Florida. As far as can be learned at the present, the young pilot was struck by a revolving propeller of a plane.

He is survived by his wife of one month, Mrs. Elizabeth Wheatley Miller and his mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Cosden Miller and the following brothers, John C., Richard M., Harry R., and Bernard J. Miller and his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. B. S. Cosden.

This is the second tragic event to happen in the Miller home in the past few months as Mrs. Miller was notified of the missing of another son, Frances Robert, aged 18, who was presumed to have been lost at sea in April.

Young Miller enlisted in the Naval Reserve Air Corps in August, 1942, and received his training at the University of Georgia and then was transferred to Anacostia, D. C. Later he was sent to the Pensacola Flying School in Florida where he graduated and received his commission as a Naval Pilot. Miss Wheatley attended the graduation exercises and the young couple were married the same day.

The deceased and his wife were living in Florida at the time of the accident, where he was taking advanced training before joining the fleet.

Young Miller's body was expected to arrive late Thursday and to be accompanied by Mrs. Miller and Kennard J. Burke, A. M. M. 3c, U. S. Navy, a cousin of the former who is also stationed at Jacksonville, Fla.

Solemn Requeim Mass will be held at 10 a. m., Saturday morning in Sacred Heart Church with the Rev. Father Charles J. Conway and Rev. Father Francis Fisher, of Centreville officiating. The bearers will be Robert Elliott, Medford Groves, Joseph Towner John T. Cosden and Howard Wheatley.

Interment will be made in Chester Cementery with Usilton and Wells in charge.

Note Signed By Men On Raft Off African Coast Found By Crabber From Smiths Island

(From The Crisfield Times)

What was the fate of four men, on a life raft off the coast of North Africa, who placed a paper signed by each of them and an ace of diamonds playing card in a glass jug and set it adrift, to finally find its way across the Atlantic, up the Chesapeake Bay to Johnson's, Point in Holland's Straits, after a 16 months journey, to be found by a crabber from Smith's Island?

Capt. Willie Middleton, while engaged in catching crabs in Holland's Straits on July 2nd, off Johnson's Point, noticed a glass jug, of about a half gallon capacity, bobbing up and down in the water, and reaching out his crab net, hauled it to his boat.

He found the jug was sealed, and in it a piece of paper. Breaking the jug and taking out the paper, imagine his amazement to find that it contained the names and addresses of four men, evidently castaways, survivors of some torpedoed ship, who must have taken this means to ask for rescue.

The note was cheap, plain paper stained by salt water and it may be, blood of one of the men on the raft. Written with lead pencil, it was simply worded, and then signed by each of the four:

March 6, 1942

Coast of North Africa,
Four (4) sailors on a raft.

Sam S. Wooten, Cox.
A.G.C., U.S.N.,
52 and 1st Avenue,
South Brooklyn, N. Y.
(From State Ohio)

George F. Bosse,
62 Woodstock Road,
Rochester, N. Y.

Lee A. Whealton,
521 W. Third St.
Washington, N. C.

Loney Turner,
Gunner,
New York.

Were these men resuced, or did they become victims of hunger and thirst, their vitality slowly sapped, until at last their glazed eyes no longer looked over the long reaches of the ocean for rescue, or did they, as many have done, become crazed with thirst and plunge into the sea, to join other brave men whose sepulchres are the restless waters of the great Atlantic?

What sights this glass jug witnessed, what story it could tell if it could speak, of its journey from a life raft off the coast of Africa to the Chesapeake bay, guided by wind and tide for sixteen months?

And what was the signifiance of the ace of diamonds playing card? Did it signify hope of rescue or did it mean that this was the last play in a game where death held the winning hand?

It may be that these men were rescued and are again sailing the seas, helping mightily to win this war so that the seas as well as our land may again be made safe, except for the vagaries of nature, for freedom loving Americans.

Or it may be that some capricious current grasped this last plea for help from those shipwrecked men, and instead of guiding the jug to the nearest land from where rescue could have been attempted, caused the jug to spin and bob out of the reach of all to finally come to the hands of Capt. Middleton, thousands of miles away, sixteen months later, while four brave men died, one by one, scanning the horizon for a sign that resuce was on the way.

Here is a chapter of another mystery of the sea which will be solved only, as the colored spiritual has it, "on that great gittin' up mornin'," Resurrection Day, probably, with woman weeping silently and growing old, and children growing into manhood and womanhood, with the great question of the fate of loved ones, who had gone down to the sea in ships, unanswered.

—V—

Don't forget the Community Singing in The Chestertown Public Square Next Tuesday night.

Travel To Show Is Approved By O. D. T.

Entries of Holstein, Guernsey and Jersey Cattle are coming in at a rate which promises a worthwhile show at Galena next Thursday, August 5th. Cattle from Kents leading herds will be shown as will a number of outstanding 4-H animals.

Mr. R. N. Wills of McDonough School will judge all three breeds. He has judged at two different. Kent shows in the past and is a good "Cow Man."

The show will be held in the lot opposite the Galena Elementary school where ample shade and water is available.

Mr. H. C. Marker, Dairy Specialist at the University of Maryland and Mr. A. M. Crissey of the Holstein-Friesian Assoc., will be present to assist with the show.

The State Fair Board is cooperating to the extent of furnishing $5.00 per animal in prize money. The State Breed associations are providing ribbons as usual. Guernsey and Holstein breeders of pure bred cattle of the two counties who can meet the health regulations are elegible to show and should make their entries at once to the Extension Office. Health regulations are the same as in former made at once.

years and required tests should be

This show, as in former years, promises to be a valuable educational medium and offers the opportunity to all Kent farmers and dairymen to attend.

The following ruling, just issued by Leo McCormick, State Director O. D. T. permits the continuation of our annual Dairy Field Day.

"Farmers who drive to an agricultural exhibit under the auspices of the Maryland State Fair Board in order to exhibit livestock or farm products, and farmers who drive to attend such an exhibition of livestock or farm products, are not in violation of the non-essential or pleasure driving ban if such attendance is part of their occupation of farming and the exhibitions are of products which the farmer is actively producing."

—V—

VALUABLE CROPS GOING TO WASTE IN KENT COUNTY

Glen Martin is reported to have well over 300 acres of beans ready to pick and there is danger of this crop going to waste unless pickers are secured. Sugar corn for the Kennedyville Cannery is ready to pull and it looks like a shortage of labor in the fields might cause this crop to go to waste according to County Agent McVean. Some of the Chestertown Business Men volunteered to spend a day or more helping harvest the crop.

(The following is a release from the County Agents Office).

Everybody is well aware of the acute labor shortage. Strenuous efforts are being made to secure migratory laborers to help save the crops. Competition for labor is very keen.

Realizing that the usual migratory labor is not available, it seems necessary that the folk within the county must organize to help save the food.

The County Agent offeres the services of his office and phone to man, woman, and child who will pick beans or tomatoes for pay at the regular wage or piece work wage, which is liberal. Anybody who is willing to help save the food crops, should contact the County Agents Office, phone No. 202. This office will be informed of the farms facing the loss of crops and can inform the volunteer workers when they can be used to best advantage. In many cases the volunteer workers will group up in car load lots and travel to the place of work. If the volunteers have no means of travel and there are groups of 10 or more, buses to transport them to and from the job will be available. In still other cases the farmer can send his truck to transport these volunteer workers to and from the job.

Volunteer workers who would like to get beans or tomatoes to can, probably can get them from the farmer for when they work. It might work out that the volunteer workers would take their pay in crops. The awareness of the impending shortage of food and feed stuffs is increasing daily. Every effort should be made to save the

(Continued on page 8)

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