

By J. C. R.

A MERE SUGGESTION

Boone's City Fathers are about to complete an excellent year's work...

Merry Christmas, and many thanks is our inexpensive present to the City Administration...

BUSINESS NOTE

Dr. George K. Moose of the Boone Drug Company is a strong believer in Democrat advertising...

Lumberton Man May Oppose D. G. Brummitt

Raleigh, N. C.—Solicitor Thomas A. McNeill, Lumberton, of the Ninth Judicial District, is said to be training his eyes upon the State position now held by Dennis G. Brummitt...

There are those among the State leaders and in the hands of the Democratic party who say Attorney General Brummitt needs a spanking...

Legislature to Study Occupational Diseases

Raleigh, N. C.—When the 1935 General Assembly convenes it will have available all of the information obtainable on "occupational diseases"...

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BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1934

\$1.50 PER YEAR

Baby Expert!



New York.—The wonders of New York's sky-scrapers failed to impress Dr. Allan R. Dafoe (above), Canadian country physician...

JOHN B. HOPKINS PASSES TUESDAY

Well Known Washingtonian and Brother of Mrs. J. W. Hodges, Boone, Victim of Sudden Illness. Buried in District.

John B. Hopkins, 76 years old, native of the Gap Creek section, but for the past thirty years a resident of Washington City, died at his home there Tuesday...

Other details were lacking except a statement that funeral and interment would be in Washington Friday.

Surviving is the widow, four sons and two daughters, William, Joseph, Elmer and John Hopkins, Misses Agnes and Lucy Hopkins, all of Washington; also the following brothers and sisters: Mrs. John W. Hodges of Boone; Thomas W. Hopkins, Newland; George W. Hopkins, Mountain City, Tenn.; and Mrs. Mary Thomas, Mountain City.

Native of Ashe County Mr. Hopkins was a native of Ashe County, having been reared on Gap Creek near the Watauga County line. He represented Ashe County in the Legislature of 1895 and a few years later moved to Washington where he held a position of responsibility in the Census Department for twenty-six years, retiring in 1930.

Mr. Hopkins had often visited in Boone with his sister and was well known to Watauga County people, who looked forward with pleasure to his trips to this section. He was a likeable gentleman, a good and able citizen, and people in this section of the State will learn of his death with sadness.

Four Cases Are Heard By Recorder Tuesday

Only four cases were tried by Judge John H. Bingham in Recorders Court Tuesday, despite the fact that Superior court had been in progress for the past two weeks and had prevented the lower court from sitting.

James Simmons, charged with f. and a., was given a sentence of six months on the roads after it had been shown he had violated the terms of a suspended sentence.

Hagaman McGuire, public drunkenness; costs. Ed S. Williams, reckless driving, directed to pay cost and repair damaged car for prosecutor.

Will Lowrance, carrying concealed weapon (steel knucks), was assessed with the costs.

Sheriff Howell Captures Forty-Second Distillery

Last week Sheriff A. Y. Howell and his deputies captured an eighty-gallon copper still in the "Pick-breeches" settlement, Beaver Dam Township. Two men were arrested and around three hundred gallons of beer destroyed. This makes forty-two stills and twenty-four men captured since Mr. Howell has been sheriff of Watauga County.

COVE CREEK F. F. A.

The Cove Creek Chapter of the Future Farmers of America met December 14th for their regular meeting. The following program was rendered: A talk on "December on Virginia Farms," by Howard Rowe; "Livestock Outlook Good," was discussed by Tommie Ward.

LOCAL EXCHANGE NAMED IN PHONE RATE PROPOSALS

Reduction of 15 Per Cent in Rates of All Phones in State Ordered by the Utilities Commissioner; Budget Commission Draws Revenue Proposal. Highways Make Progress. Other Raleigh News Items.

By M. R. DUNNAGAN (Special Correspondent)

Raleigh, N. C.—Reduction of 15 per cent in rates of all telephones in the State operated by the Southern Bell Telephone and Telegraph Company has been ordered by the State Utilities Commission, effective as of January 1, 1935...

However, the Southern Bell will resist the order and probably apply for an injunction to prevent the rates becoming effective. If the injunction is granted, that automatically stays the effectiveness of the reductions...

The rates fixed for Boone and Blowing Rock in the commission order follow:

Boone: Business, one party \$3.00, two-party, \$2.50, three party \$2.00, rural \$1.75; Residence, one party \$2, two-party \$1.50, rural \$1.50.

Blowing Rock: Business, one party, \$3.50, two party \$3.00, four party, \$2.00, rural \$2.00; Residence, one party \$2.50, two party \$2.00, four party \$1.50, rural \$1.50.

BUDGET BOARD DRAWS BILL

The Advisory Budget Commission has drafted the revenue and appropriations bills it will offer to the 1935 General Assembly, all except the provisions of the general sales tax, it was stated, following the meeting here Friday. That is expected to be completed later, guesses being that it will be a continuation of the three per cent sales tax, without exemptions of basic food items, as now.

Governor Ehringhaus, who spent most of last week on speaking trips, is expected to spend some time now on these bills and his message to the General Assembly. He spoke at the 10th anniversary celebration of the founding of the Duke Endowment here Tuesday night. He then went to Washington and spoke at the Crime Conference Wednesday, and Friday spoke in New York City at the convention of the National Association of Life Insurance Presidents. Preparation for the meeting of the Legislature January 9 is expected to take most of his time until then.

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION

Field investigations of the 736 rural electrification projects and extensions in 77 counties had been completed by December 1 by Governor Ehringhaus' Committee on Rural Electrification, under Prof. D. S. Weaver, of State College, executive director. These projects call for building 4,750 miles of lines and would serve about 24,000 customers or rural families. An investment of about \$7,500,000 would be needed to complete the work, estimates being that probably half of the proposed projects are practical or capable of being operated on a self-sustaining basis. The \$17,200 cost of the surveys was met by the FERA, a field investigator going into every county, from which rural electrification applications were received. The study of facts collected will probably require six months longer.

600 MILES OF ROAD BUILT

Exactly six hundred miles of highways had been built in North Carolina up to November 1 under the U. S. public works road construction program, 347.3 miles were under construction and 94.7 miles had been approved for construction. The 1934 fund of \$9,522,239 had only \$613,766 left and the 1935 fund of \$4,840,941 had \$3,899,186 still available.

VOTE FOR BANKHEAD BILL

Returns on the Bankhead act on which cotton farmers over the South voted last week indicate that the act is popular by a vote of about 10 to 1 for continuing the provisions restricting the growing of cotton. Indications were that Oklahoma, California and Kentucky had the strongest sentiment against it, but it carried in every cotton-growing state by a wide margin. North Carolina's vote was about 12 to 1, this State casting 117,080 for and 9,528 against retaining the act, incomplete returns showed. In strong Republican counties, generally, the opposition vote was heaviest, the one exception being Stanly County, which is Democratic, but which voted against the act, 1,022 to 579.

Cotton ginned in North Carolina this year up to December 1 amounted to 588,141 bales, as against 662,647 bales to that month in 1933. The figures include running bales, linters not included, the report shows.

A Child Is Born At Bethlehem



Above is pictured a striking scene, re-enacting the birth of the Christ Child in the village of Bethlehem nineteen centuries ago. "Christus," the passion play, from which the picture was photographed, was featured at Chicago this month, a Christmas benefit for underprivileged children.

Democrat Will Be Issued on Monday

In order that those responsible for the publication of The Democrat may enjoy a brief Christmas holiday at home, next week's Democrat will be published Monday. Contributors, advertisers and others are advised that nothing can be taken after Saturday for publication next week, and are asked to govern themselves accordingly.

The Democrat is anxious that its service continue through Christmas and the only way this may be done is by publishing this early edition.

BURLEY GROWERS TO VOTE ON TAX

Crop Reduction Plan to Continue if Growers Desire, Walker Says All Ballots Must Be in by 32nd. Three-fourths Necessary.

The Burley tobacco growers in Watauga now have the opportunity of voting for or against the tobacco tax as it relates to the crop-reduction machinery of the Agricultural Adjustment Administration. It will be necessary for three-fourths of the acreage of 1934 to be voted for the tax if it is to be continued through another year, and contract growers have already been furnished blanks on which they may indicate their preference.

The cards must be mailed to W. H. Walker, Boone, so that he will receive them not later than Saturday, December 22nd. All those growers who are not contract-signers should call at Mr. Walker's office for a card and cast their vote for or against the tax, as is their preference.

Every 1934 tobacco grower should vote, says Mr. Walker, who further explains that those not growing the weed this year are not eligible to take part in the poll. Voting positively stops Saturday night, December 22.

Baskets Are Given to Confederate Veterans

At a meeting of the Watauga Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy, at the home of Mrs. Joe Cook on Tuesday afternoon, principal interest centered about the preparation of baskets of goodies for the few remaining veterans of the Civil War. These are to be presented for Christmas.

Fruits, candies, etc., were donated to the chapter by the following local merchants: T. M. Greer, Carolina Store; Mr. Upright, Carolina Store; Mullins and Clay, A. & P. Tea Co. and Smithey's.

Civil Court Term Closed Last Thursday

The two-weeks term of Superior Court, called by the Governor for the trial of civil cases, was adjourned on Thursday afternoon by Judge N. A. Sinclair. During the term something like 45 cases, many of long standing, were disposed of, and the civil calendar is said to be in the best shape for many years.

ELECTION ROW IS DROPPED IN LAP OF ATTY. GENERAL

Brummitt Must Give Opinion as to Whether or Not State Board of Elections Has Power to Revoke Certificates of Watauga Officials. May Yet Get Into Courts. Zimmerman Present at Saturday Hearing.

Attorney General Dennis G. Brummitt had the "buck" passed to him in an all-important question last Saturday when the State Board of Elections asked the State's attorney to give an opinion as to whether or not it had the right to revoke certificates of election given Watauga County Democratic candidates as a result of the November balloting. Saturday's hearing was the most recent episode in the post-election tangle, which was precipitated when local Republicans who lost by a reduced majority, complained to Raleigh that there were various and flagrant violations of the election laws, and that three poll books were not found after the count-out. They contend that enough illegal votes were counted to have changed the result of the election.

Board Wouldn't "Take It" The State Board of Elections evidently didn't know whether or not they could do anything about it, so the Attorney General is asked to tell them if they can revoke the election certificates. It is pointed out that the law as to revocation has not been invoked in many a day. In the Britt vs. Weaver contest, it is shown, the State Board of Elections was powerless, the Superior Court likewise impotent, and no change was effected by the highest court, the returns having already been certified lower down.

At any rate, the board is now up against the problem of revoking or prosecuting the Democratic officeholders. In Alexander, John R. Jones only Republican State official, would appear for the State, while in Watauga L. S. Spurling, Democratic solicitor, would put up the scrap.

In the last hearing Charles Zimmerman, Boone attorney, who is appearing for the Democrats, indicated prompt retaliation in the event Republicans in this county went to the courts. Eugene Trivette of North Wilkesboro is appearing for the Republicans.

It is learned that if the Attorney General should rule the State Board has the right to revoke the election certificates, the respondents would refuse to step out and then quo warrant proceedings would be in order. Anyway, Mr. Brummitt's position at present is not particularly enviable, and the question he has been asked comes somewhat in the nature of a "poser."

Agricultural Classes to Enter Essay Contests

Cove Creek and Boone High schools will be represented by a number of their agricultural students in a State-wide essay contest being sponsored by the Division of Vocational Agriculture of the State Department of Education, according to Mr. G. G. Farthing and Mr. R. G. Shipley, vocational farm teachers. The contest this year, like last year's is intended to develop interest in and encourage study of the rarer elements in crop production and animal nutrition. The Chilean Nitrate Educational Bureau is co-operating with the Division of Vocational Agriculture by offering prizes for district and State winners.

"Last year," Messrs. Farthing and Shipley say, "eighteen boys in this State won prizes for their essays. It is possible for twenty boys to receive prizes this year. With this encouragement and the importance of the subject to our farmers, we are expecting the boys to turn in some splendid essays."

"Of course it has been known for some time that there is a lot more to crop fertilization than just applying varying amounts of nitrogen, potash, and phosphate. The Agricultural experiment stations throughout the United States have shown that a lot of elements like magnesium, calcium, manganese, iodine, copper and zinc are necessary for proper plant growth and development. This contest provides the best way we have ever found for an intensive study of the subject, and the boys are looking forward to it as much as we are."

Only Four Veterans Now on Pension Rolls

Only four veterans of the Confederacy from Watauga County remain on the pension rolls, according to Austin E. South, Clerk of the Superior Court, who has just received checks for distribution among the survivors of the South's armies. Elihu Luther, Lemuel Green, Enoch Swift and W. H. Norris each receive \$182.50 twice a year, while twenty-one Class B widows get a semi-annual payment of \$50, and two Class A widows get pensions of \$150 twice a year.

MISS BELL HEAD RELIEF OFFICES

Wilkes Woman Will Be Relief Administrator for Six-County District in Which Watauga Is Located. Offices in North Wilkesboro.

Miss Victoria Bell, Wilkes County woman, and recently relief administrator in Catawba County, has been named district administrator for ERA in the district, which besides Watauga, includes the counties of Wilkes, Ashe, Alleghany, Surry and Yadkin.

The appointment was announced last week from the offices of Mrs. Thomas O'Berry, State Relief Administrator, in Raleigh. Appointments of those to fill other positions in the new set-up have been made, it is said, but their names have not been made public.

Miss Bell, according to a report carried in the Wilkes Journal, is well qualified by training and experience to fill the post of district administrator.

The district offices will be located in the Bank of North Wilkesboro Building in North Wilkesboro, and the office rooms have already been furnished, and were expected to have been occupied by the first of this week.

In the meantime no definite instructions have been received at the Watauga relief offices, and it is understood that business will be transacted as usual until the district machinery has been set in motion.

Mrs. Alice Council Is Ill at Hickory Home

Information coming to relatives in Boone Tuesday indicated that Mrs. Alice Council, pioneer Boone resident, is seriously ill at her Hickory home. Mrs. Council celebrated her 102nd birthday anniversary the first of December, and due to her extreme age, friends are very apprehensive over the outcome of her illness.

Convicts Moved to Local Prison Camp

Eighty prisoners have recently taken up their abode at the State Prison camp one mile west of Boone, and will be engaged in doing road work in this section. Seventy-two of the convicts are negroes and eight are white. Some of the men, it is said, were sent to the roads on serious charges, but most of them are serving sentences for minor infractions, and are not regarded as dangerous prisoners.

Engineers at Work on Park to Park Highway

Information is that engineers are busily engaged in making preliminary surveys of the Parkway at various points between the Shenandoah Park in Virginia and Blowing Rock, and that in some instances locations are being completed. It is expected that actual work may begin on some sectors within the first few weeks of the New Year, the plan being to start construction at different points along the way, rather than to work straight through from one terminus to the other.