

**HUMANITY** . . . still same

The more thoughtful members of the human family have always been curious to know how, when and where the manners, customs and habits familiar to everybody, began. It is not merely curiosity that prompts scientific investigators to go back to the beginning of things. Every bit of evidence that things which we are inclined to regard as modern are really very old helps to a better understanding of what we call, for lack of a better name, "human nature."

The more I dig into the history of the human race the more firmly I am convinced that human nature, in its main essentials, has not changed since the beginning of time.

**BEGINNINGS** . . . one mystery

My indefatigable friend Joseph N. Kane, spends his time in digging down to the beginnings of things. Some years ago he published a thick book called "Famous First Facts" in which he told who was the first person to do or invent or discover many of the things that we regard as what have always been done. Now he has a new book called "More First Facts."

I have gone through it carefully to see if Joe has found out the name of the first man who ever ate an oyster. It was Dean Swift who said that that man, whoever he was, was a real hero. But Joe Kane hasn't got his name in his book.

**LIFE** . . . spore hunting

There are still millions of questions about the beginnings of things to which science has not found the answer, but every year we come nearer to the truth. The origin of life itself is a mystery which has not been solved.

A great Swedish scientist, Svend Arrhenius, put forward a theory that life first came to earth in the form of spores carried through space from some distant point in the universe. Scientists admit that may be true. The American Professor Compton's discovery of "cosmic rays" which bombarded the earth from somewhere in interstellar space suggests that such a thing is possible.

When the biggest balloon ever made went up fourteen miles into the stratosphere, a few days ago, the observers carried not only instruments for detecting and measuring the cosmic rays, but apparatus designed to collect spores, if there were any, in this realm beyond the earth's atmosphere.

**DEITIES** . . . many

From the earliest days, people of all races have been puzzled over the beginning of things, and in the absence of facts they have developed folk myths to account for matters which they did not understand.

Out of these attempts to explain origins came many of the ancient religions. The most familiar of these is the Greek mythology, which has been preserved because the world has access to more written records of ancient Greece than to those of any other race. The Greeks imagined an elaborate system of gods and demigods to whom they attributed not only the origins of every-day phenomena but all of the good and ill that happened to human beings. In this they were like all other primitive peoples, in ascribing human attributes to their deities.

I think a good deal of that idea of God as nothing but a superior and all-powerful man persists in the subconscious minds of a great many people still.

**SPIRIT** . . . unchanging

My mother, who was brought up a devout Presbyterian, taught me the "shorter catechism" when I was a child. I still think that classic document contains the most perfect definition of God: "God is a spirit, infinite, eternal and unchangeable, in His being, wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness and truth." I think if anyone clings to that conception of God, as a spirit moving in the hearts of men and guiding their lives, he is not going to concern himself much as to precisely how the God of the Bible did the things which are attributed to Him.

"In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth." Modern science tends more and more to the belief, for which it is constantly seeking proof, that every so-called physical fact is merely a manifestation or evidence of an all-pervading spirit. Call it God, or what you will, all life and substance, so the most advanced physicists are coming to believe, is one with all the other shapes and forms and forces which rule creation and dominate our lives.

**WRESTLING MATCH**

The first wrestling match of the season at Appalachian College takes place Saturday evening at 8 o'clock, when the Mountaineer grapplers meet a strong team from Winston-Salem Y. M. C. A. Considerable interest attaches itself to the initial meet and Coach Watkins promises plenty of excitement for mat enthusiasts.

**PIANO RECITAL**

Piano pupils of Miss Blanche Blair and Mrs. Howard Gragg will give a recital Tuesday evening, December 17th at 8 o'clock in the auditorium of the Demonstration School building.

## MOTOR CIRCUS TO TOUR IN INTEREST ELECTRIC SURVEY

Steps Taken to Follow Up On Surveys For Rural Electrification Plans.

### GOVERNOR CITES RELIEF BALANCE SHEET OF STATE

State Said to Be Able to Participate in Social Security Act; Comprehensive Review of the News of The State.

By M. R. DUNNAGAN, (Special Democrat Correspondent)

Raleigh, Dec. 9.—An "electrical circus," made of trucks carrying all kinds of electrical equipment suitable for rural home and farm, is to visit even the remote areas of North Carolina to demonstrate to farmers that electricity is the cheapest and most efficient servant, if plans of Josh L. Horne Jr., Rocky Mount, member of the N. C. Rural Electrification Authority, mature. Mr. Horne, according to Dudley Bagley, head of the Authority, is as "full of ideas as a dog of fleas," promoted the plan for holding county meetings explaining the rural electrification plan and purpose. Arrangements are being made for easy financing in purchase of electrical equipment, through Federal aid, by which appliances may be bought on 30 months payment plan at an interest rate of three per cent. Some of the power companies may finance such purchases at even a lower rate, in order to get the business. Scores of electrical appliances will be used in the "electrical circus" Mr. Horne states.

### MORE JOBS

The State WPA office had provided 1073 work projects to employ 48,655 unemployed persons, up to the end of last week, Director George W. Coan Jr., announces.

### ALLEN IS SWORN IN

E. F. Allen, Lenoir, appointed recently by Governor Ehringhaus as a member of the State Highway and Public Works Commission, succeeding Luther Hodges, of Spray, resigned, was sworn in Friday before Associate Justice Heriot Clarkson. The commission awarded contracts for about \$800,000 worth of highway work, heard several delegations and attended to other business.

### GOVERNOR TELLS OF RELIEF

Governor Ehringhaus recently went into details on North Carolina's relief receipts and contributions to the Federal Government in a letter to a newspaper man in New York, and Senator Dickinson, of Iowa, had said he would "check up" on relief coming to this state. Governor Ehringhaus had angered him by holding him up to ridicule in a N. Y. State Chamber of Commerce meeting for jumping on the Roosevelt Administration. A New (Continued on Page Seven)

### Other Agricultural Films To Be Shown

A second series of U. S. Department of Agriculture films are to be shown for the vocational agriculture and home economics students and 4-H clubs of the county at the Pastime Theatre Friday morning, December 13 at 11:30.

Included in this series are "Carry On," "The Cougar Hunt," and "The Cow Business." About 250 people saw the first series and thought they were very educational. Several farmers and farm women attended. They will also be welcome to this and other shows and they should find them well worth their time.

Again the showing of these films is made possible by the courtesy of Mr. A. E. Hamby.

### Future Farmers Hold Father-Son Banquet

The Daniel Boone Chapter of the Future Farmers of America held their second annual Father-Son banquet Friday night, December 6. Some seventy-five fathers, sons and guests were present for the occasion.

Officers of the Chapter opened the program with the "Opening Ceremony," following this Rev. J. C. Cannon pronounced the invocation. Several members of the Chapter with their string instruments entertained the guests with a few numbers. Earl Tugman, president of the Chapter, welcomed the fathers and guests; to this Mr. D. L. Wellborn responded. Edwin Norris recited the F. F. A. Creed, after which Shaler Greene told of the work of the Chapter. R. G. Shipley outlined the work of the department after he introduced the following speakers: Mr. W. H. Walker, County Superintendent; Mr. W. B. Collins, County Agent; Mr. G. P. Hagaman and Mr. Roy Dotson, Principal.

The banquet was graciously prepared and served by Home Economics Department of the High School.



All is in readiness in this community for the coming of Saint Nicholas, and the merchants of the town have officially inaugurated the shopping season.

## REV. M'KAUGHAN CRITICALLY HURT

Baptist Divine May Not Recover From Injuries Received In Car Crash.

Rev. J. A. McKaughan, Baptist divine, who until recent months had made his home in Watauga county, is a patient at the Baptist Hospital, Winston-Salem, as a result of injuries received in an automobile accident last week, and serious doubts are entertained as to his chances for recovery.

The accident occurred as Mr. McKaughan and a brother-in-law, Mr. Tom Cash, were on route from Winston-Salem to Mount Airy. Cash became blinded by the lights of an approaching vehicle, his car left the road, crashed into a bridge abutment and turned over, and the perhaps fatal injuries sustained. A broken pelvis bone, and likely internal injuries were suffered by the minister.

Mr. McKaughan was formerly a pastor of the Cove Creek Baptist Church and is generally known throughout this section, where much anxiety exists on account of his injuries. He has recently been engaged as field secretary for the United Dry Forces of the state and had visited in Boone only a few days ago.

### RECORDER'S COURT

Only two cases were disposed of in Recorder's court Tuesday. G. G. Wilcox and Robt. Winkler were each arraigned on charges of violating the state prohibition laws, and were fined \$5 and the court costs.

## RELIEF COMES TO CLOSE LAST WEEK

Direct Dole System of Government Ends After About Three Years.

Direct relief as administered by the Emergency Relief Administration came to a close last Thursday, but Miss Theodosia Watson, who has efficiently administered the program in this county for almost two years, is keeping the office open for an indefinite period to clear up details incident to the disposal of the organization.

Officially Watauga county had 401 cases on the active list when orders came to issue no more funds for food. It is explained however, that actually from 50 to 100 will be left when those gaining work under the WPA are duly certified and officially checked off. The cases are carried in the active file until they receive two weeks pay under the WPA.

Something like 350 are now at work under the new works program, practically the maximum of employables existing on the relief rolls.

## Mayor Extends Welcome To Christmas Shoppers

Mayor W. H. Gragg, a foremost exponent of the "trade-at-home" philosophy, has issued the following statement, as shopkeepers of the city inaugurate their Christmas selling campaign:

"As Mayor of the town of Boone, I wish to extend upon behalf of the city administration and the citizens of the town generally, a cordial invitation to the residents of the surrounding country to visit us often during the Christmas shopping season and to patronize our local places of business.

"Never in my knowledge have the merchants of this city prepared themselves so extravagantly for the Christmas trade, and no town in North Carolina of a similar size can boast of such modern purchasing facilities. These firms and individuals are contributing to this community and to their county in

every way possible and helping to build up a more prosperous region. We owe it to them as well as ourselves to spend our money at home, where it will continue to stimulate business and industry.

"Let us desist from outside shopping during this Christmas season; give the home town merchant the first chance at your business. He wants to please you, and has a personal interest in your satisfaction.

"We want all the people of the county to visit their county-seat during the holiday season. Boone people want you to know it is YOUR town, and will do their best to make your visit pleasant and profitable. Every official and individual will be literally at your service, and will show you every kind of courtesy. Let's meet and mingle together and enjoy the old-time Christmas spirit."

## EMPTY STOCKING DRIVE IS BEGUN

Fire Department And Others Anxious That Christmas Cheer Be Given Poor.

The local newspaper, the city administration, and various individuals of the town are co-operating wholeheartedly with the Fire Department in its effort to raise an adequate sum of money to provide trinkets, candies, etc., for the destitute kiddies in this community, who otherwise would face a drab and cheerless Christmas morn.

Every business interest of the town, and the people generally are asked to contribute as liberally to this fund as possible, and every effort will be made to see that distribution is made only to the needy children. Donations may be left at the city hall, the newspaper office, or with Pat McGuire, chief of the fire department.

Discarded toys of every description are also wanted by the Fire Department to repair for other children, and should be brought to the city hall promptly.

Notwithstanding government expenditures for direct relief, which is being abandoned, and even with the public works, those familiar with the situation know that many children in Boone and immediate environs will not have any joy at Christmas time except as it is given by the public. Let us contribute liberally so that there may be a minimum of childhood misery brought on by the sight of a pair of tattered stockings, hung by the fireside, as an invitation to the Saint Nicholas who failed to come.

## FINLEY OWNER OF LOCAL HOSTELRY

Daniel Boone Hotel Sold Wednesday Noon to North Wilkesboro Man.

Mr. R. G. Finley, North Wilkesboro manufacturer, became the owner of the Daniel Boone Hotel Wednesday noon, when the property was offered for sale by Security National Bank of Greensboro, Trustee. Mr. Finley bid \$38,750 for the 50-room hotel and realty at the foreclosure sale.

The hotel which was constructed by a company of local citizens as a tourist hostelry, is a modern brick structure, and information is that Mr. Finley expects to expend several thousand dollars in improvements on the property, and make of it a model hotel.

Reports indicate that Mr. J. B. McCoy will retain the lease on the property and that the management will be unchanged.

## Mrs. Edminsten Dies

Mrs. N. L. Edminsten, 68 years old, and former resident of this county, died at her home in Lenoir Monday of last week.

Funeral services were held at the home in Lenoir Wednesday afternoon, and interment was in that community.

Among the survivors is a brother, Mr. W. L. Holshouser, of Blowing Rock.

Mrs. Edminsten lived for many years in the Blowing Rock section where she was held in high regard. Her husband died during the month of March, 1935.

## MERCHANTS PLAN HEARTY WELCOME FOR SANTA CLAUS

Stores in Holiday Attire as Holiday Shopping Season Is Ushered In.

### A RECORD CHRISTMAS TRADE IS PREDICTED

Vigorous Selling Campaign Aimee At Further Establishment of Boone As Trading Center For Wide Area.

In preparation for what they believe will be the most active holiday trade for the past several years, Boone merchants have made their shops resplendent with yuletide decorations, as a background of the most elaborate displays of gift items ever assembled in this city, and the Christmas shopping period is off to a healthy start.

Never before in the history of the city has there been such a fairland of Christmas merchandise thrown open to the public. From baby rattlers to eight cylinder automobiles, from lollypops to diamond rings and radios, throughout the catalog of human wants or requirements—whatever your desires, the Boone merchants have made the solution of your gift problems so utterly simple that the visit of Kris Kringle can be looked forward to with an element of pleasure by even the grown-ups.

The opening of the shopping season has been preceded this year by the most progressive publicity program thus far attempted in this city, and a desperate effort is being made to widen the trade radius of Watauga's metropolis. The local newspaper today is a rather complete directory of information for the Christmas shopper, and is enjoying a greatly increased circulation throughout neighboring counties in an effort to attract some of the trade, which has, for want of adequate local facilities, slipped through into Tennessee or other sections.

No effort has been spared in making these elaborate preparations for the holidays, and officials are joining in extending a cordial welcome to visitors to the town during the shopping period. Holiday wants can be filled more satisfactorily and more economically in Boone than in the larger cities, and her establishments are just as thoroughly modern as those found anywhere. The wisdom of home buying is taking hold more and more with the home people, and there is every reason to believe that the local retail receipts will even exceed the expectations of the business men.

## DURHAM MAN BIDS LOW ON PARWAY PROJECT

Roanoke, Va., Dec. 5.—Nello L. Teer and Nello L. Teer, Inc., Durham, N. C., contractors, today posted a low bid of \$290,055 for construction of 13 1-4 miles of the Shenandoah-Great Smoky mountains parkway in three North Carolina counties, Ashe, Alleghany and Wilkes.

Specifications call for the construction of a 20-foot roadway.

Second low bidder was E. W. Granis, Fayetteville, N. C., \$310,905; third, C. A. Ragland Sr., Louisville, N. C., \$311,870.

### BASKETBALL MEETING

A meeting for the interpretation of basketball rules will be held at the College auditorium Saturday from 1:30 to 5:00 o'clock under the auspices of the Appalachian High School Association. The meeting is open to high school students and others interested in Ashe, Avery and Watauga counties.

## FARM DEBT BODY IS REORGANIZED

Will Assist Farmers Who Are In Financial Distress. No Cost Attached.

The farm debt adjustment committee was reorganized last week following a visit to the county of T. A. Holcombe, District Specialist for the Farm Debt Adjustment, and the new local body is as follows: J. B. Horton, chairman, W. H. Walker, secretary, R. T. Greer, T. C. Baird and Wade E. Brown.

The committee, it is recalled, was organized primarily for the purpose of assisting worthy farmers who were in financial distress, and who, in many cases, were in danger of losing their properties through foreclosure proceedings. Any farmer in such distress, it is pointed out, may apply to any member of the committee, or to the county farm agent, or to the Resettlement office, and such aid as can be tendered toward an equitable debt adjustment will be absolutely without cost.