

**FLORIDA** . . . the last frontier  
I went the other day to a luncheon in New York at which the Governor of Florida was the host. Florida has set up a three months' exhibition at Rockefeller Center, New York to give northern people some idea of the beauties and attractions of that really marvelous state.

I have been all over Florida, written books and magazine articles about it, lived there for long periods, but what impresses me most whenever I get from thinking about it is its tremendous area still unoccupied.

Florida is truly the last frontier, there is room for ten million people to live and make a living in Florida, under the most delightful conditions of climate and comfort that I know anywhere.

**TAXES** . . . few in Florida

I did not realize until I talked with Governor Dave Sholtz how far Florida has gone in the last few years in lifting the tax burden from its people. The state has no bonded debt and so does not have to levy taxes for interest on its debt. It has no income or inheritance taxes and has lately eliminated all direct property taxes on homes assessed at \$5,000 or less.

A great many people think of Florida as a millionaires' playground. Palm Beach, Miami and other East coast resorts are crowded with freeters every winter. But along the Gulf Coast, in the charming ridge country of the interior with its 10,000 fresh-water lakes, and in the beautiful rolling hills of West Florida, there is no premium on wealth. I know of no part of the country—and I am pretty familiar with the whole United States where the ordinary citizen of small means can live so well for so little money.

**HEALTH** . . . fine foods

Everybody lives out of doors in Florida. Houses are places to sleep in. That is one reason why Florida is pretty nearly the healthiest state in the Union. Few days, even in the severest winters, call for even a light topcoat. And it is Florida's boast that nobody ever died of sunstroke even in the heat of summer. Old Florida residents have a saying, "There's always a breeze in the shade." I have found that true. If the wind isn't blowing from the Atlantic, it's blowing from the Gulf. Away down in South Florida I have had to pull a blanket over me on an August night.

Another reason why Florida people are so uniformly healthy is that one quickly gets the habit of making fruits a large part of one's diet. Grapefruit, oranges, papayas, pineapples, strawberries, such foods as those and the year-round crops of green vegetables, provide Floridians with unlimited supplies of the most health-giving foods!

**SPORT** . . . all kinds

I don't know of any other part of the country where so many of the people get so much out-door sport to mix with their work. Water sports, swimming, yachting, motor-boating, canoeing, are within everybody's reach. So is fishing in fresh water or salt. The biggest black bass I ever saw or heard of came out of one of the fresh inland lakes. There is a golf course or a tennis court within a few minutes drive of anywhere, and few states have a better or more complete system of motor highways. And for those whose tastes in sports are simple, there is always horse-shoe pitching. St. Petersburg is the horse-shoe-pitching town I have ever seen, and championship croquet is played on its many courts.

Talk about the "more abundant life"—there is no need to reorganize the whole social order to provide it—Florida offers it now.

**BUSINESS** . . . chances galore

I have never been able to see any limit to the business opportunities in Florida. One of the latest and most prosperous business developments is the manufacture of paper in Panama City from the prolific Florida pine timber. The ship canal, which the Federal Government has begun to dig across the neck of the Florida Peninsula, will provide a new trade route between all Gulf of Mexico ports and the Atlantic Ocean, and seems destined to multiply Florida's commercial prosperity.

I still think the biggest opportunity in Florida for the average man is in one or another line of specialized agriculture. That takes some capital and more intelligence, but, given those, there are a few better ways to make a living. A cousin of mine, a New York lawyer, gave up his practice ten years ago and started celery farming in Florida. On the whole, he makes a larger income than his prosperous law practice provided, and he is physically ten years younger than when he went to Florida.

All that I have been saying here sounds as if I were a Florida booster. I am!

Mrs. Walter Robbins of Nash county, has started 400 baby chicks under the brooder in preparing for the new of Pasquotank county, added nitrate poultry year.

## WPA WORKERS MAY GET AN INCREASE IN SOME LOCALITIES

**Additional Allotment Granted State Brings Grants To \$8,400,000.**

**PENSION ROLL SHOWS 400 CONFEDERATES ARE LEFT**

**No Way of Giving Teachers Sick Leave; Legends for Other Highway Markers Completed; State News of a Week.**

By M. R. DUNNAGAN

(Special Democrat Correspondent)

Raleigh, Dec. 19.—WPA workers living in or within one mile of the limits of towns and cities of the state having 5,000 or more population will receive an increase of 10 per cent in their pay for work on WPA projects, State Director George W. Coan Jr., announces. The order will be effective January 1. Meanwhile, an order reducing the hours of work from 140 to 130 a month became effective December 18. No increase is made in rural areas, the increase for urban workers bringing the rates of pay to a closer parity, Mr. Coan said. The increase and the order to get pay to workers within five days after the work period ends will do much to relieve dissatisfaction among WPA workers.

Mr. Coan has also received an additional allotment of \$1,000,000 for this state, bringing the total allotment to \$8,400,000 so far. Thirty per cent of the new fund will be used for creating work for women and the balance will be used on approval projects yet to be approved, Mr. Coan said.

### THE THIN GRAY LINES

Only 400 Confederate veterans, less than one out of 300 who bore arms in the 1911-5 conflict, are now receiving pensions in this state, State Auditor Baxter Durham reports. Checks went out to them and other pensioners last week and are now available in court clerk's offices. Fifty-four have died during the past year. Their checks total \$73,000, or at the rate of \$1 a day. Checks for \$100 each sent to 51 aged Negroes who accompanied their masters to war. The 921 "Class A" widows get \$150 each six months, total \$138,150, and the 1,750 "Class B" widows get \$50 each six months, total \$87,750. Class A widows married their husbands before the war ended and Class B widows married them before 1889. The total pension checks for the six months was \$303,750.

### NO SICK LEAVE FOR TUTORS

No way has been found for paying sick leave to public school teachers, but the State School Commission made provision last week for keeping a record of absence of teachers from sickness, largely, it was said, to get some idea of the cost when it is found that such leave can be paid for five days, as was provided by the 1921 General Assembly, which, also, failed to provide the funds for carrying it out. The special committee which made an investigation, headed by Grady Gaston, Gastonia, who did not approve the idea of saying the leave will be paid if funds can be found, on the ground that all teachers would assume that a promise and be disappointed if it could not be done.

### MANY HISTORICAL MARKERS

Legends for seven more markers for state highways have been completed and sent to the manufacturer, bringing to 13 the number of texts (Continued on page two.)

### Cleveland Is Scene of Republican Meet

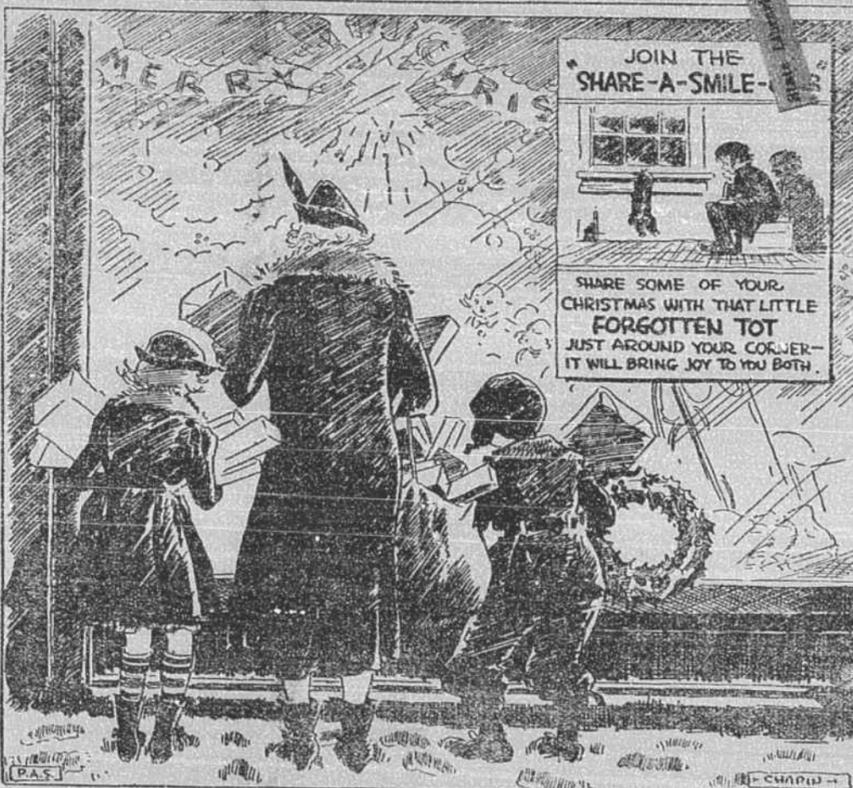
At a meeting of the Republican national committee in Washington Monday, Cleveland, Ohio, was chosen as the convention city for 1936, and the presidential candidate of the G. O. will be placed in nomination on the 9th of June.

The convention city was chosen quickly, and was described as the meeting point of the industrial east and the agricultural west, was at the center of population, and the "market place and capital of the vast agricultural empire to which candidates of both parties will address their appeals next fall."

### ATTENDS FUNERAL OF AGED CONFEDERATE VET

Mr. E. W. Stallings was called to Franklin county Sunday on account of the death of a 90-year-old grandfather, J. Lawrence Bowden. Funeral services for the highly respected gentleman who was a veteran of the Confederate armies, were held Monday, and Mr. Stallings was expected home early Tuesday morning.

## JUST A REMINDER ——— by A. B. Chapin



Just a reminder—that somebody's kiddies are not going to be remembered this Christmas, unless there is a concerted effort to build an empty stocking fund in this community. The appeal of this met with scant response. The friends would like to have something for some kiddies they know of, and if we will co-operate in supplying the funds, Christmas may be made much more enjoyable for all of us. Anyone who becomes disposed to help out may leave their contribution at the Democrat office or give it to any city official, or to Pat McGuire, fire chief. In the absence of any appreciable response, those of us interested will ease our consciences through well-meant—but less effective single-handed action.

## STREETS TAKE ON HOLIDAY ATTIRE

**High School Students to Assist Shoppers During Pre-Christmas Rush.**

A huge Christmas tree has been erected in the square opposite the Watauga county bank, electricians are busy festooning the spruce with myriads of vari-colored lamps, and a dozen or so other trees are being erected on the commons in different parts of the town, in an effort by the city administration to create the Christmas spirit among the shoppers during the late rush of buying. Practically all the store fronts of the town are decorated with holiday colors and the shopping district is the most attractive in many years.

Two boys and two girls, students in the Boone high school, have been selected because of their excellent standing to assist visitors to the town during Christmas. They will lend their aid in the matter of parking cars, aid women and children in crossing the streets, carrying their packages, or in any way possible. The students selected for these duties are: Bernard Adams, Hersel Scott, Vivian Carico and Francis Miller.

## Stores To Be Open At Night Till Xmas

Beginning tonight and continuing through until Christmas, retail establishments of the town will be open for business during the evening hours. Out-of-town people will find it most convenient to do their shopping after supper, and will no doubt, appreciate the extra touch of service given by the Boone merchants.

## ONLY THREE PENSION CHECKS FOR VETERANS

Only three pension checks for Confederate veterans living in Watauga county are to be distributed this year. Lemuel Greene, Ellhu Luther and W. H. Norris are the only survivors of the armies of Lee and Jackson from this county, who are on the state pension rolls.

Clerk of the Court A. E. South now has three checks, together with those for thirty-six widows of Confederates, and those to whom they are drawn may secure them any day by calling at his office.

## ELLER CHILD SUCCUMBS

Raymond Wilson Eller, six months old son of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Eller of Boone, died at the Wilkes Hospital Saturday, after an illness with pneumonia. Funeral services were conducted from the Beaver Dam Baptist Church Sunday afternoon and interment was in that neighborhood.

## Democrat To Issue on Monday of Next Week

The Democrat will be published on Monday of next week, so that the force may enjoy a period of rest during the holidays, and contributors, advertisers and others are reminded that all matter for the Christmas-week edition must be in hand during the day next Saturday.

Since Christmas is the only time in the year when the Democrat suspends work entirely, the Monday edition provides the only way by which there may be a holiday observance, without suspended local newspaper service.

## TAYLOR NAMED AS NEW ACCOUNTANT

**Austin South Retires As Term Expires; Cites Extra Duties Imposed.**

Mr. Gordon Taylor of Valle Crucis, has been named County Accountant, to succeed Austin E. South, who has held the position since its creation, and who asked that his name be left out at the end of his term, which was the first Monday in December.

Mr. South, in a written statement to the Board of Commissioners, stated that extra work brought on by the establishment of the Recorder's court, together with need of more time for his private interests, brought about his decision to retire from this branch of the public service.

Mr. Taylor is well equipped to carry on the duties of the office and entered upon his work as soon as elected.

## W. E. Miller Operator Of New Hardware Store

Mr. W. E. Miller of West Jefferson, has opened the Cash Hardware Store in this city, having recently taken over the stock, fixtures, accounts, etc., of the Watauga Hardware Company. The stocks have been greatly enlarged and a modern establishment is being conducted.

Mr. Miller is a hardware man of wide experience, and is welcomed to the city. He will move his family and establish his home here at a later date.

## RETURNS FROM WYOMING

Mr. Cecil Critcher returned to his home in Blowing Rock Sunday, after a three months sojourn in the vicinity of Story, Wyoming. The trip was in the nature of a hunting and fishing expedition, and Mr. Critcher brought back the head of an enormous elk as proof of his prowess as a hunter.

## AID IN REDUCTION ROAD TOLL SOUGHT

**Mayor Asks For Co-operation of the People In Program Of Safety.**

In an effort to curb the reckless conditions existing on the highways of the country, resulting in many deaths, the mayor of Boone has issued the following proclamation as a part of the National safety campaign:

"Whereas the President of the United States has called on the people to unite in a national effort to cut down the rising tide of death and destruction on the streets and highways of the nation;

"Whereas the Governor of North Carolina has pledged the co-operation of this state in this national effort;

"Whereas the Law Enforcement Officers of North Carolina have inaugurated through The Institute of Government a systematic and continuous program of Accident Prevention and Motor Vehicle Law Enforcement through the distribution of 500,000 copies of "Guides to Highway Safety."

"Now, therefore, I, W. H. Gragg, Mayor of Boone, call upon all high school authorities, all local officials and employees, all citizens' organizations and automobile drivers, and the heads of all business enterprises, to procure and study "Guides to Highway Safety" without delay, and to devote the first meetings of their respective organizations in January, 1936, to a program of accident prevention and motor vehicle law enforcement as the starting point of a larger program of crime prevention and criminal law enforcement."

## WPA Employees To Get Holidays Next Week

Security wage earners on Works Progress Administration projects will be given two and one-half days holiday for Christmas, it has been announced from the district WPA offices.

The workers are to get off Tuesday at noon and will return to work Friday morning, and will be paid the usual wages for the time they are off. Administrative workers have been given a one-day Christmas holiday, it being left in the discretion of the district directors to allow an additional day and a half if it can be done without impairing the work of the office.

## REEMPLOYMENT OFFICE TO BE OPEN TWO DAYS WEEKLY

The National re-employment office will be open each Saturday and Monday for registration purposes. The offices are located in the courthouse at Boone, and the public is asked to bear in mind the dates when it is open.

## CHILDREN PERISH AS FLAMES SWEEP SPAINHOUR HOME

**Victims of Burke County Tragedy Are Relatives Of Boone Woman.**

**CREMATED CHILDREN ARE UNABLE TO LEAVE INFERNO**

**Four Children and Two Women Only Occupants of Country Home. House Practically Destroyed When Help Comes.**

Morganton, Dec. 13.—Two children perished in flames when the home of their mother, Mrs. Ralph H. Spainhour, was destroyed by fire late last night, six miles northeast of Morganton.

The bodies of Barbara Spainhour, 13, and her brother, Dan, 11, were removed today from the ruins resulting from the fire which trapped them in their sleep on the second floor.

A kerosene oil lamp which the girl left burning for an older sister who also occupied the room is believed to have exploded, and caused the fire. When discovered, flames filled the girl's room and was burning the bedroom in which the boy slept.

Mrs. Spainhour's daughter-in-law, Mrs. W. R. Spainhour, who had retired to an upstairs room, heard an explosion and found the hall in flames. Her cries brought no response from the children, and the rapidly-spreading blaze forced her to go downstairs where she notified Mrs. Spainhour and two other children, David, 10 and Ruby, a high school student, all of whom escaped without injury.

### Two Sons Absent

The four children and the two women were the sole occupants of the home. Mrs. Spainhour's sons, W. R. Spainhour, who reside at the home, were away for the night.

Telephone connection with Morganton could not be made because of a defect in the line, but neighbors were summoned. The second floor rooms had fallen in when outside assistance arrived, however.

Practically all contents of the dwelling, occupying one of the older rural home sites in Burke county, were destroyed. Mrs. W. R. Spainhour expressed the belief that the two upstairs rooms occupied by the children had been burning before the lamp exploded, who said both rooms were in flames when she opened her door across the hall to investigate the loud noise. The theory was advanced that the lamp was probably overturned before the explosion and the children may have been overcome in their sleep.

### Large Family

The two children are survived by their mother, widow of Ralph H. Spainhour, who was a prominent Burke county farmer, and by five brothers, W. R. Spainhour of Morganton, Richard E. Spainhour, principal of the Lenoir grammar school, Ralph Spainhour of Wilmington, Calif., Joe Spainhour and David Spainhour, at the home, and six sisters, Mrs. William Jeanette of Greensboro, Mrs. R. L. Patton Jr., of Morganton, Miss Frances Spainhour, student of East Carolina Teachers College, Greenville, Virginia, and Mary Spainhour, students at Asheville Normal school, and Ruby Spainhour, at the home.

Funeral services were conducted Saturday afternoon from the Morganton Presbyterian Church and interment was in the family cemetery near the home.

The tragic death of the Spainhour children constitutes news of local concern since their bereaved mother is a sister to Mrs. George Winkler of Boone. The Spainhours have often visited in this community.

With an enrollment of 1400 rural boys and girls into the 4-H clubs of Johnston county, there is an increase of 100 per cent. above the enrollment for last year.

## GIFT SUGGESTION

When its the last minute before Christmas, and you can't decide what to give some far-off friend or relative, let a gift subscription to the Watauga Democrat provide a happy solution of the problem. One dollar and a half supplies an appreciated gift—one which entertains and edifies throughout the fifty-two weeks of the coming year, and constantly reminds the recipient of the thoughtfulness of the giver. These gift subscriptions are being entered daily, and we hope this suggestion will be acted upon favorably by YOU.