

# "Uncle Newt" Banner Celebrates His Ninety-ninth Birthday Anniversary

Civil War Veteran Was Born in Surry County in 1842; Had Difficulty in Enlisting in Federal Army Because of Physical Deficiency

By WHEELER FARTHING  
Sugar Grove, Oct. 8.—Newton Banner, one of Watauga's two survivors of the Union forces in the Civil War, celebrated his 99th birthday here yesterday. Only one other member of the Grand Army of the Republic lives in Watauga county, Mr. W. H. Blackburn of Laxon.

"Uncle Newt," as he is affectionately called by the folk of this section, was born in Surry county in 1842, and upon the outbreak of the war he walked from his home in what is now Avery county, to Cumberland, Ky., where he enlisted in the federal forces. He remembers the extreme care that he and the other men in the group experienced on this journey, traveling only by night and then arming themselves with wooden guns.

Because of his meager 74 pounds, young Banner was at first refused admittance into the federal army, but he threatened to "go back home and join the Rebels." Recruiting officers then told him that he would have to wrestle a designated man, one of the strongest in the division. This he succeeded in doing at his first try, and he was consequently placed in uniform and made a dispatch carrier.

"Uncle Newt" remembers quite distinctly when the northern forces stormed the city of Mobile, Ala., for he was in the advance guard throughout the entire battle. He had been given duties other than dispatch carrying on this occasion.

If one would not mention several very narrow escapes, "Uncle Newt" can be said to have come through the war unharmed, but severe attacks of chills and fever necessitated his leaving the army in 1865. He was given an honorable discharge, a document now yellowed with age, but treasured by the old veteran just the same.

He has traveled widely, having made three trips to the west where he was a cowboy in Oregon and a farmer in Washington. He also attended a joint reunion of the Federal and Confederate veterans in Washington and another of the Fed-

## Civil War Vet



Mr. Newton Banner, veteran of the Grand Army of the Republic, who yesterday celebrated his 99th birthday.

eral veterans at Gettysburg. And now, in the 99th year of his age, he is taking it easy at his home, just resting from the labors of almost a century. Both age and illness are making themselves shown in his hearing, but he takes a great interest in the management of his farm and in the topics of the day.

### REV. C. A. TODD

News has been received here of the death of the Rev. C. A. Todd of New Braunfels, Tex., well-known in this section as the former principal of Watauga Academy at Butler, Tenn., and pastor of the Baptist church at that place.

For the past five years he had been pastor of the First Baptist church at New Braunfels. Death followed injuries to his head and internal injuries sustained when he fell through the ceiling from the attic in the church there.

Surviving are his wife, three daughters, Katherine and Alice Todd of New Braunfels, and Mrs. G. Boyd Farthing of Butler; two sisters and a brother.

Interment was in the Rose Lawn cemetery at San Antonio, Texas.

## Six-Inch Sermon

By Rev. Robert H. Harper

### CHRIST OUR SAVIOUR

Lesson for October 12: Matthew 20:25-28; Luke 19:1-10; Golden Text, John 3:16

There could hardly be selected two passages that would tell more of the caption, "Christ Our Saviour," than those of the lesson text.

Jesus says he is the Son of man who came "to give his life a ransom for many." The Son of God became the Son of man that men through him might become the redeemed sons of God. Both God and man, Jesus was prepared to be the Saviour of man.

The second passage tells of a man up a tree. He had climbed there to see Jesus. He was also up a tree so far as his reputation and his conscious need were concerned. Zacchaeus was doubtless surprised that Jesus noticed him. The people murmured against Jesus because he went home with a sinner. How little sympathy do many feel toward the fallen!

How different is the attitude of Jesus! When he had brought Zacchaeus to a new day, Jesus declared his mission in words that should bring peace to every troubled heart: "For the Son of man came to seek and to save that which was lost." Note the tense in "was." Man was lost but he may be found. The gospel does save, and it will save every man. We cannot lose hope of any man unless we lose hope in Jesus himself.

Jesus used himself as an example to those who sought chief places in the kingdom. We, too, must emulate Jesus in his self-sacrificing love. Concerned for our souls, we must be concerned for the souls of others. May God so reveal himself to us in Christ that he may reveal himself through us unto others!

During the training period U. S. navy recruits gain an average of 15 pounds each.

### NOTICE

The annual meeting of the stockholders and directors of the Blue Ridge Fair Association, Inc. will be held October 21st, 1941, at 7:30 p. m. in the Junior Order Hall, Boone, N. C.

H. M. HAMILTON, President.  
ROY ELLISON, Secretary.

## Clark's Creek News

Miss Estelle Fox, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Fox, returned to Melrose, Mass., after visiting her parents for several weeks. Miss Fox is employed at the Melrose sanatorium and hospital.

Mrs. Myra Mayne, Mrs. James Cantwell and her son, Mr. Ormond Cantwell of Cambridge, Md., visited Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Adkins a few days ago. Mrs. Cantwell is a sister of Mr. Adkins.

The beautiful home of Mr. Henry Taylor is rapidly nearing completion.

Mrs. Joe Jests has returned home from Maryland where she spent several weeks.

Mr. and Mrs. Hardy Clark have moved to Lenoir where they will probably spend the winter.

Mr. J. B. Fox is making quite extensive improvements on his home. At the present time he is giving it a coat of paint on the outside.

Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Johnson have moved back into this community from Pee Wee Valley, Ky., where Mr. Johnson was employed for a time.

Mr. and Mrs. George Thomas have returned to Orlando, Fla., after having spent the summer here

Mr. Thomas is so well pleased with our community that he has purchased property and will be back again next summer.

Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Page of Orlando, Fla., have returned to their

home after being with us during the summer.

The Clark's Creek Baptist church is rapidly nearing completion. When completed the congregation can be justly proud of it.

## "THE DOCTOR'S DRUG STORE"

Our store is known as "The Doctor's Drug Store"—and we are proud to be designated as such. Because it means that our professional friends have found here an intelligent and comprehensive understanding of their needs, and a code of ethical standards corresponding to their own.

Ever since our doors were first opened more than two decades ago, our store has conscientiously endeavored to serve physicians and their patients expertly, promptly and courteously, at the lowest consistent cost. We employ two Registered Druggists who give personal attention to all prescriptions.

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