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WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

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BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 1948.

FIVE CENTS A COPY

KING STREET BY ROB RIVERS

DIP IN COMMODITY PRICES finds its way into the conversation along the street. . . Local copesters trying to figure out if a full-scale depression is coming up. . . Business man with huge inventories of high-priced wares hopes prices don't slide enough to materially change the retail picture. . . salaried worker, who just can't make the two ends meet, hard as he's tried, hopes stuff gets cheaper—a lot cheaper—right quick. . . Farmer sees disaster in shaky grain and meat markets, and the man with a bunch of easy money in hand has rosy visions of cashing in at the expense of the less fortunate should a crash come.

FOLKS CAN'T ALL BE HAPPY AT THE SAME TIME. . . Some are wont to look longingly at the day when a week's provisions could be laid away with three or four dollars, when ham was 15 cents a pound, and the butcher threw in a chunk of liver "for free" with the big chunk of meat which he sold for forty or fifty cents. . . They yearn for the ten cents a dozen eggs, but seem to forget in those days most of us didn't have the dime, and were making out with white gravy. . . Don't know whether a financial crash is in the cards for the near future or not, but we do know that folks have always fared better when the products of the farm and factory were high. . . We always intended to do wonders, just as things go down. . . Actual experience has been, however, that when that happens, the masses of the people do nothing. They can't. . . don't have money and there is no job.

KIDDIES TURN OUT in big droves to the movie house to see Roy Rogers twirl a rope, ride a horse, which through photographic manipulation, gallops at something like sixty miles an hour, shoot the bad bold man dead as a nit just as he was reaching for the "equalizer," and fire seventeen shots from a six-shooter, without reloading, as he made war on a gang of rustlers determined to force a female rancher out of business. . . Their boss of course, held a mortgage on something.

SOME FOLKS think its downright awful for their kids to see these "shot em up" cinemas. . . They don't much like for little Johnnie and Betsy to reenact the gory barroom scenes, while the ladies aid is trying to hold a session in the parlor. . . It's no end of trouble to see to it that the youngsters are stripped of their plastic revolvers before they start to Sunday School, and they don't like the back-yard games, where the make-belief sheriff of Rim-Rock county might be hanging Snake-Eye Sanchez for doing murder when he held up the gold-laden stage to Squatter's Gulch. . . As a fact we are opposed to this last scene, for there is grave danger when the act includes the use of the hempen cravat. . .

BUT DESPITE all these good and valid objections, it is a fact that the so-called western film is the only one that brings to the theatre audience a concrete argument for law and order. The elementary sort of plot around which these productions are built always features the frontier town, ruled relentlessly by the overlord of the gambling house and saloon. . . surrounded by a pack of hoodlums ready to kill, rob and pillage at the beck and call of the boss. . . The clean-cut young fellow, always rides in from the range, saunters into the saloon, spurns the hard likker, drinks soda pop. . . gets bullied a bit, and gives the old kayo to the toughest hombre in town, at the climax to a fight which has wrecked the place, busted all the bottles and sent the poker chips in all directions. . . Meantime, couple of bystanders make as if to pull guns. . . here lets them down in a fusillade of lead. . . Stranger is made sheriff, cleans up the town, establishes law and order, marries the eastern girl in distress, and everything ends right happily.

THE SCENES are fairly rough, some of the characters are terrible, but law and order, sobriety and decency are always shown to triumph, and the desirability of treading the narrow path is graphically pictured. . . Sometimes the church is built and the same feet that polished the brass. (Continued on page four.)

ENTERS RACE



Hon. Robert L. Doughton, who has announced that he will run again for the ninth district seat in Congress to which he has been elected for 38 years.

LAST RITES MISS SMITH

Prominent Valle Crucis Woman Succumbs at Home Of Dr. Perry.

Miss Nannie Hill Smith, of Valle Crucis, N. C., died at the home of Dr. and Mrs. H. B. Perry on Thursday morning, following an illness of several months. Funeral services were held at Holy Cross Church, Valle Crucis, Friday afternoon at 3:30. Rev. Mr. Leach conducted the rites and interment was in the Mast cemetery.

Miss Smith was a daughter of the late Benjamin Gordon Smith and Louisa Hill Smith of Scotland Neck, N. C., and received her education at Vine Hill Academy, Scotland Neck. For a number of years she taught in the Mission Schools of the Episcopal Church at Beaufort, N. C.; St. Mark's, Iredell county, N. C.; Iolani School for Boys in Honolulu, T. H.; Valle Crucis School for Girls and later was secretary at Hannah-More Academy, Reisterstown, Md. Prior to her work at Hannah-More she resided in Brooklyn and held several positions in New York City. Since her retirement a few years ago, she has lived at her home in Valle Crucis, N. C., and with her niece, Miss Sue H. Taylor of Washington, D. C.

She is survived by her twin sister, Mrs. C. D. Taylor of Valle Crucis, N. C., and brother William R. Smith of Atlanta, Ga., a number of nieces and nephews, among them being: Mrs. H. B. Perry, Bynum Taylor, Gordon Taylor, of Boone; Miss Sue Taylor, of Washington, D. C.; Miss Nancy Taylor, Durham, N. C.; Henry Taylor, Valle Crucis, and Gilbert Taylor, Raleigh.

Miss Smith was a member of the Episcopal Church and had been faithful in her religious activities. She was also active in the community life of Valle Crucis, and during the war did outstanding work in Red Cross and sales of war bonds.

Local Bank Gains 12 Points In Rank

During 1947 the Northwestern Bank advanced from 511th to 499th position, or 12 places, among the 1,000 largest banks in the United States, it was revealed last week by the American Banker.

DOUGHTON TO SEEK ANOTHER HOUSE TERM

Veteran Ninth District Congressman Tosses Stetson in Political Ring; Had Wanted To Retire; Oldest Member Early Riser, Hard Worker.

Washington, Feb. 14—Representative Robert L. Doughton of the Ninth North Carolina district one of the most active and beloved members of Congress, tossed his hat into the ring today and asked to be returned to Congress for his 20th consecutive term.

The dean of the Tar Heel delegation, who has served in the Congress of the United States longer than any other person from North Carolina, said he had reached his decision to run again "after full consideration, and with much reluctance," but due to the many urgent requests to continue in office he feared he would "be suspected of ingratitude if he did not respond."

He said he had received "hundreds of letters and telegrams urging him not to retire.

Declaring that he is enjoying the best of health and able to do a full day's work, he said he thought he could well shoulder the burdens of the office for another two years.

Doesn't Rise 'Til Six Those who know the 84-year-old legislator well know that his capacity for work has not slackened during the years. Many younger members would find it hard to keep the active schedule he maintains. Few do. However, Mr. Doughton will admit to you that he may be "slipping just a little" in that he does not get up now until six o'clock in the morning. It used to be five. But he has a good excuse for that. He lives at the George Washington Inn just across the street from the new House office building and he finds he must wait for breakfast until eight o'clock when the House cafeteria opens.

But, he does not idle away these early morning hours. He buys his morning paper and goes to the office to read until "breakfast is ready."

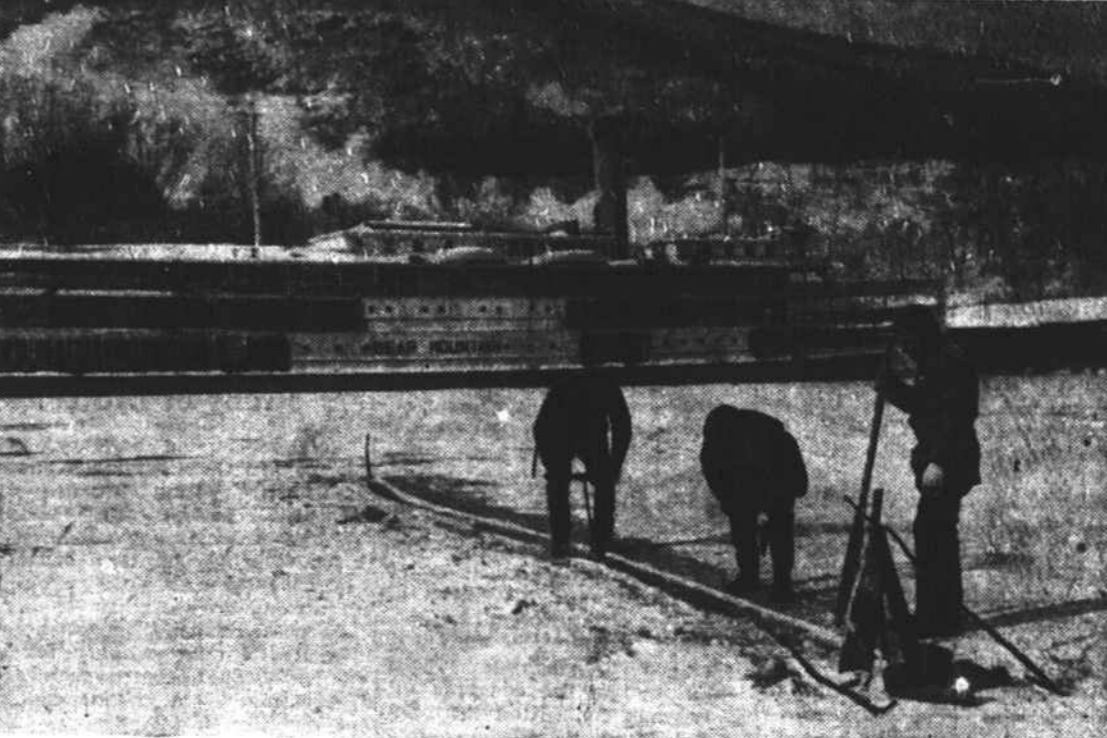
"If I can't make a hand, I don't want to go to the field," said Mr. Doughton who takes pride in being a good farmer. "No one around here has ever heard me complain of being tired or sleepy."

Other North Carolinians have had long service, but none have reached the record of "Farmer Bob." Senator Simmons served the state for 33 years; Senator Overman for 27, and Representative Pou for 33. The end of this year will bring Mr. Doughton's total to 38.

Junior To Sabbath Only one member now serving in the House has more years to his credit. He is Representative Adolph J. Sabath of Illinois who is completing his 42nd year. Mr. Doughton was born November 7, 1863, and came to Congress March 4, 1911. He has served on the ways and means committee of the House for 25 years, and was its chairman for 14 years. This also marks another record for the Tar Heel lawmaker. No other man held that chairmanship so long.

More tax legislation passed through Mr. Doughton's committee than has probably ever been witnessed by one person. However, Mr. Doughton feels that his greatest contribution to the country during his 38 years, was the social security legislation. He also points with pride to the fact that his tax legislation has been amended only once.

AS HUDSON RIVER FREEZES



Fourteen inches of ice are proving a poor armor for the denizens of the deep in the Hudson River. Commercial fishermen find their task simplified. They merely cut a hole in the ice, insert their nets, and then once a day cut through the ice again to remove the net with the catch of white perch, striped bass and sturgeon. The ice-bound ferry, Bear Mountain, is at the pier in the scene.

DRAMATIC VETS IN STAGE PLAY

"Arsenic and Old Lace" To Be Staged at College Next Friday Night.

The Friday night production of "Arsenic and Old Lace" presents veterans of the Appalachian College stage, with dramatic experience ranging up to seven years. The Lindsay-Crouse interpretation of Joseph Kesselring's three-act comedy mystery will be featured on the College stage Friday, the curtain to rise at 7:30. Townspeople are welcome.

With stage appearances both in musicals and dramas, dating back to pre-war days, Rogers (Spud) Whitener is the leading veteran of this local drama group. The two old-maid aunts afford another veteran of comedies and tragedies, Barbara Weaver, who starred last year in "You Can't Take It With You," Appalachian's presentation at the Asheville Dramatic Festival, "If This Be Treason," and other college productions during the past three years.

Gene Johnston, the maniacal old codger who believes himself to be Teddy Roosevelt and who throughout the performance leads the "Rough Riders" across the stage, has starred in Appalachian productions since the war. A supporting cast of Kenneth England, Hillard Triplett, Jesse Hutchinson, Bobbie Brown, Don Seaver, Douglas Archer and Charles Jarvis presents a varied range of experience from high school dramatics to recent attractions at Appalachian.

"Arsenic and Old Lace" will be produced and staged by the Play Production Class, under the direction of Cratis Williams.

Band Members In All-State Concert

Three members of the Appalachian High School band have been chosen to play in the all-state band at High Point next Friday and Saturday.

Those who will go to High Point are Fred Council, cornet; Nell Norris, French horn; and W. B. York, Jr. clarinet. The group will spend the day Friday in rehearsing, and in the evening a concert will be given by the Davidson College band, and then the group will be the guests of the Junior High School at a dance.

Saturday will be spent in rehearsals with the concert by the all-State group Saturday night at 8 o'clock. Accompanying the local musicians to High Point will be Gordon Nash, band director, who will assist in the sectional rehearsals of the all-State group. Allen Bone, band director at Duke University will direct the band in its Saturday evening performance.

BAND LEADER



Gordon Nash, director of the Appalachian High School band, who is engaged in readying his organization for its tenth anniversary concert.

G. O. P. PLANS LINCOLN FETE

Many Local Republicans to Hear Deliverance Of Missouri Solon.

About twenty local Republicans are expected to go to Winston-Salem Saturday where they will attend the annual Lincoln Day dinner to be held at the Robert E. Lee Hotel.

Congressman Dewey Short of Missouri will be the featured speaker for the evening. A. I. Ferste of Asheboro will be the toastmaster for the dinner, it is stated, and G. Hobart Morton of Albemarle will give Lincoln's Gettysburg address. Buford T. Henderson will welcome the guests.

Charles R. Jonas of Lincolnton will introduce Representative Short, while Sim DeLapp of Lexington, chairman of the State Republican executive committee, will award prizes to the winners of the State Republican oratorical contest.

FAIR DAY SEEN FOR PLANTERS

Coleman Believes Better Days Ahead For Burley Growers of Area.

Increased foreign consumption of burley tobacco coupled with the big decrease in production during the past season, makes prospects for the sale of burley in 1948-49 a bright one for the farmers of western North Carolina, according to a message received from R. C. Coleman, Boone warehouseman.

Mr. Coleman feels that it is more important this season than ever before for the farmers in western North Carolina to prepare their seed beds with care and be sure to sow enough to amply take care of the acreage they will be allowed to plant.

According to reports from the Burley Auction Warehousemen's Association, the 1947 crop fell 42,000,000 pounds below estimate, while prospects for export of burley look better than they ever have. In view of this, burley warehousemen are asking Secretary of Agriculture Anderson that the ten percent cut, already announced, be restored.

Mrs. R. L. Lowe Claimed By Death

Mrs. Blanche VonCannon Lowe of Banner Elk died Monday at her home. She was the wife of Robert L. Lowe and a daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. William VonCannon. She was a member of the Eastern star.

Funeral arrangements, under the direction for Reins-Sturdivant funeral home, are incomplete. Surviving are the husband; three sons, Chester Lowe of Banner Elk, Gilbert Lowe of San Francisco and Charles Lowe of Banner Elk; four daughters, Miss Fanny W. Lowe of Banner Elk, Mrs. Lucy Isenhour of Conover, Mrs. Annie Heineman of Omaha, Neb., and Mrs. Mildred Graham of Charlotte; two brothers, Henry and Fred VonCannon of Banner Elk; one sister, Mrs. Anna Guignard; 15 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.

Announcement has been made by the Rev. E. F. Troutman, chairman of the Watauga County Chapter of the American Red Cross, that Dr. W. G. Bond has been named chairman for the town of Boone, and Miss Ellen Coffey has been named chairman for the town of Blowing Rock in the fund drive for that organization. Both have accepted the appointment. The campaign for funds for the national and local Red Cross will begin on March 1. Mrs. H. F. Custer of Blowing Rock will assist Miss Coffey during the drive.

BAND TO GIVE CONCERT FOR ANNIVERSARY

Appalachian High School Band Makes Ready for Concert Featuring Its Tenth Anniversary; Gordon Nash Director of Organization.

The tenth anniversary concert of the Appalachian High School Band will be presented Tuesday evening, February 24th, in the high school auditorium. The band was organized in the fall of 1937 and was first presented in concert in February 1938. Since then the organization has made steady progress due to the undying interest of the townspeople, who have shouldered the financial responsibility for its music and equipment, and to untiring efforts of its accomplished director, Mr. Gordon Nash.

When the band was organized there were twenty members. Now the membership has grown to fifty, with thirty additional ones in training for the next year. The organization represents a total investment of \$15,000, practically all of which has been raised since the disastrous fire destroyed the music building in November 1945. Despite this investment, the band is not yet completely equipped. Assisting Director Nash in the concert, will be Edwin Troutman, Edwin Troutman, who is directing the Mountain City, Tenn. band, has been Mr. Nash's assistant for two years, doing a good job teaching the beginners' band. Tim Craig, a veteran, has had wide experience in music, both in the army and in civilian life. As a special feature of the anniversary event, a new march, composed and arranged by Mr. Nash, will be presented.

Roby Townsend Dies at Lenoir Home

Lenoir, Feb. 16—Robey Townsend, fifty-two, died Sunday afternoon at 4:30 o'clock at his home on Lenoir, Route Three. Funeral services will be conducted Tuesday afternoon at two o'clock at Union Baptist church by the pastor, the Rev. Wesley Fox. Burial will follow in the church cemetery.

The body was taken to the home this afternoon at four o'clock from the Lenoir Funeral home. Mr. Townsend, who was born on April 28, 1896, in Watauga county, is survived by his wife, Mrs. Lillie Townsend; five sons, Leonard, Beaver, LeRoy, and Herman Townsend, of Lenoir; Wilson Townsend of Boone; and two daughters, Mrs. David Berry of Valdese and Mrs. Jess Sanders of Watauga county. Also surviving are several grandchildren; one brother, John Townsend of Lenoir; and one sister, Mrs. Etta Jacobs of Washington, D. C.

Only 75% Farmers Have Filed Reports; Extension is Granted

Ned Glenn, chairman of the Watauga county committee, states that an extension of time for the filing of Performance Reports under the Agricultural Conservation Program has been received. Instead of February 15 as a closing date, farmers in the county now have until February 28 in which to file a report on the practices carried out last year. Only about 75 percent of the farmers in the county have filed Performance Reports to date, whereas Mr. Glenn states that probably 300 farmers have participated in the 1947 program either by carrying out some of the practices or through the use of conservation materials. This extension of time will give these farmers a chance to come to the county office and complete their report on 1947 practices.

Prices paid by farmers in 1947, including interest and taxes, kept pace with those they received. In January the index was 251.24 per cent above December and 17 per cent above January 1947. The parity ratio was 122 in January, about the same as a year earlier. Requeening the hive may often be the difference between success and failure with bees.

Czech Reds planning to nationalize apartment houses, stores.