

## KING STREET BY ROB RIVERS

FIRECRACKERS, used in other parts of the country, only on the Fourth of July, have always found favor in the South for the celebration of the Christmas season. We never quite found out the reason why the Christmas festival should be ushered in with a racket perhaps duplicating the fuss back at the battle of Manassas, but that's the way it is, and since we've grown a little too old to brave the elements at Christmas time just to watch a firecracker burst... we're pretty well burned out with the practice... might be a bit like the guy who lingered long over the juleps, until his ulcers rebelled, and then got mad at all the folks who still had the constitutions to grow a bit mellow with old friends when the glasses were frosty, and hearts were warm.

AT ANY RATE, the firecracker business is in full swing at the moment... contrary to the laws of the State, it being particularly bad last Saturday night, when an automobile made regular trips from the back street where we hold forth, up south street down King and Depot to the beginning, stopping at every point, where it could be imagined a citizen was enjoying peaceful sleep and setting off a dozen or so crackers... making the circuit again and again, till everyone was wide awake, and mad as the proverbial wet hen... If this was done in the name of fun, it certainly was an abortive effort, and so far as we're concerned, amounted to just plain hellishness... peace and affection toward one's fellow-man just can't be accomplished, when the Yule period has to be turned into a synthetic battle of Waterloo... Officers are warning the offenders, and we hope they will at least do better shooting from now on in before the small hours arrive... a bit of sleep is an indispensable contribution to effective effort and human happiness!

TOBACCO BALL largely attended... heap of the young folks and some of the oldesters take part in the fun... Miss Nancy Shull, charming daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Shull selected "tobacco queen" at the close of spirited balloting... Parson Sam Moss looks in on ball, and mixes with his parishioners and others for a few minutes... "Just want to see what the folks are doing... people are my business you know," quoth the minister, as he watched the dance for a few minutes and remarked on the exemplary conduct of the group... "Time was," quoth a by-stander, "when a lot of these same folks would have been all gassed up... got so bad a law was passed against public dances in the town... and now everybody's sober... whatta change!"

BOB AGLE, is starting the March of Dimes campaign again, and an urgent appeal is to be made to help the little children, whom disaster has struck... We should welcome the opportunity of contributing to the fund, which has done so much for our own kiddies... Mr. Agle hands us some figures which indicate that during the period 1937 to 1948 Watauga county contributed \$8,804.85 to the infantile paralysis fund, and that during the same period local polio victims have received from the fund \$14,979.18, or \$6,374.33 more than they have contributed... Six Watauga children, stricken last summer, are still in a hospital... one little girl is at Monroe, N. C., at a cost of \$12.50 a day!... In these days, when there's always two or three fiscal campaigns in progress here... we get rather burned out... so we don't even believe in... just give a bit out of deference to the solicitor, who happens to be our friend... but this March of Dimes business... helping the stricken children... and the Empty Stocking Fund, which eases the pain of economic misfortune at the Yuletide... are two of our "pet" projects... we can support these sincerely and enthusiastically... we hope the folks generally will heed these calls for alms on behalf of helpless youngsters... "Give a little love to a child... and you get a great deal back."

J. B. NORRIS, aged citizen of (Continued on page 4)

## MADAME CHIANG



Photo shows Madame Chiang Kai-shek, wife of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek, of China, standing on the lawn in front of the home of Secretary of State and Mrs. George C. Marshall near Leesburg, Va. Madame Chiang Kai-shek was invited to stay at the Marshall home as soon as it was announced that she was coming to the United States.

## Burley Mart Breaks All Former Records

### Democrat To Issue Early Next Week

The Democrat will be published Tuesday morning next week, rather than on Wednesday as usual, so that the publisher and employees may enjoy a Christmas vacation. All advertising copy and routine communications must be in hand by closing time Saturday in order that the early edition may come from the press on schedule.

### "Messiah" To Be Given Sunday

The chorus of Appalachian State Teachers college under the direction of Mrs. Virginia Wary Linney will present the Christmas section of Handel's Messiah next Sunday night, December 19th in the college auditorium at 7 o'clock. The piano parts will be played by Maurine K. Lovely Sokol of the music faculty. Grace Burdick also, of the music faculty will sing the Contralto solos. Other soloists will be Rachel Ann Vance and Doris Fowler sopranos, James Blanton tenor, and Stanley South and Hoyt Saffrit baritones. The chorus is augmented by the addition of towns people and faculty members who have had previous experience in singing the Messiah. The public is cordially invited to attend.

### DR. WHITTINGTON AIDS TRUSTEES OF LOCAL HOSPITAL

Dr. J. B. Whittington of Winston-Salem spent last Thursday in Boone, conferring with trustees of Watauga Hospital regarding the purchase of the new surgical equipment for the expanded institution. Dr. Whittington was recommended to the board by the Duke Foundation as the best qualified man to advise and assist in making the purchases of the new equipment. He visited the hospital and was quoted as being highly pleased with the progress being made by the trustees for the expansion of hospital facilities. Duke Foundation officials have offered their full cooperation and advice in line with the program to improve the facilities of Watauga Hospital.

### CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

This Sunday night, December 19th, there will be a Christmas program at the Rutherford Baptist church at 7 o'clock. The public is invited to attend.

### STORES IN CITY TO HAVE HOLIDAY

The stores of Boone will be closed Saturday and Monday in observance of Christmas. Shoppers are asked to anticipate their needs, and shop before the holiday period so that there may be no inconvenience.

## TO VOTE NEXT WEEK ON SOIL DISTRICT PLAN

Land Owners To Cast Ballots In Watauga On Question Of Organization Of Soil Conservation District; List Of Voting Places Given.

Land owners of Watauga county will vote on the question of organizing a Soil Conservation District for the county next week. The county agent, assisted by J. Frank Doggett, extension soil conservationist of Raleigh, is holding meetings throughout the county this week to advise the people of the purpose and organization of Soil Conservation Districts.

Ballot boxes will be located in the following places: County agents office, Boone; AAA office, Boone; Farmers Hardware, Boone; A. G. Miller's Store, Deep Gap; Howard Mast's Store, Valle Crucis; Clyde Mast's Store, Sugar Grove; D. E. Church, Store, Mabel; Clyde Perry's Store, Sugar Grove, (On Beaver Dam). Only land owners are eligible to vote. The election will run from Monday, December 20th through Wednesday, December 22nd. The ballots will be counted by three farmers on Thursday and a report mailed to the State Soil Conservation committee in Raleigh.

In 1945 a petition signed by 25 land owners of Watauga was presented to the State Soil Conservation Committee requesting the organization of a District for their county. The result of the election will indicate the amount of interest in a Soil Conservation District and guide the State committee, in deciding whether or not to organize a District in this county.

Soil Conservation Districts are sub-divisions of State Government. A District is a means for the farmers to run their own Soil Conservation program.

## Dougherty Gets High Recognition

A Boone resident received international recognition by the inclusion of his biography in "World Biography," the largest international biographical reference book, just published. Comprising two volumes totalling 5,120 pages, "World Biography" lists sketches of 40,000 living men and women distinguished in the arts and sciences, politics, education, literature, commerce and industry, military and naval affairs, and other fields of endeavor. The work is published by Institute for Research in Biography, New York City.

Included from Boone is Blanford Barnard Dougherty, President, Appalachian State Teachers College. "World Biography" was prepared with the cooperation of numerous scientific, cultural and learned societies, and was compiled with the aid of governmental agencies in sixty countries.

### Gifts Are Sought For Orphans' Home

Funds are being asked for the annual Christmas party at the Grandfather Orphans Home, where most of the children being cared for are residents of this immediate section. For a number of years a non-denominational effort has been made here to provide a Christmas fund for these children, and all gifts will be appreciated. Those desiring to make a contribution are asked to do so as quickly as convenient, and leave the money with either Guy Hunt or Rob Rivers, the sponsors of the effort.

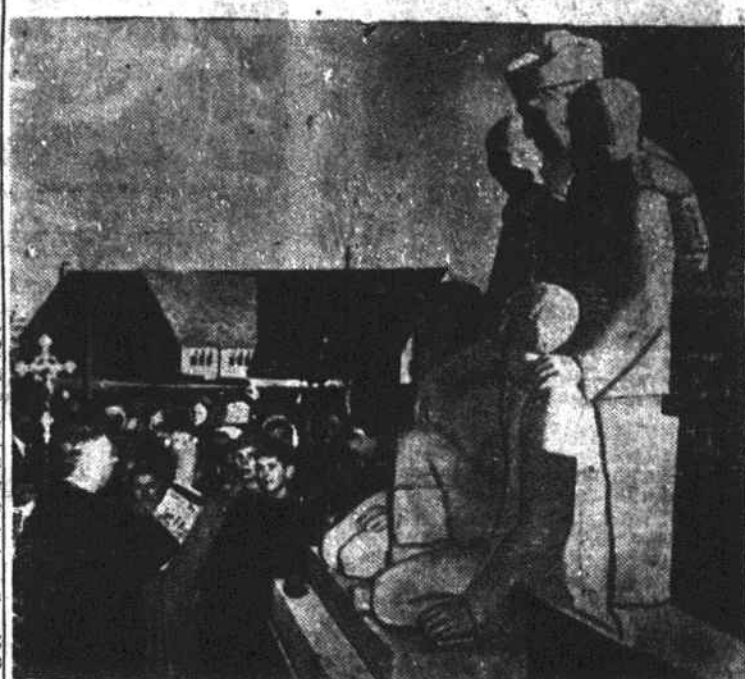
### Local Students In Radio Program

Students from the Choral Ensemble class of Appalachian High school will broadcast over Station WKBC, North Wilkesboro, Tuesday, December 21 at eleven o'clock. The public is invited to tune in for a half hour of familiar Christmas music.

### Choral Piano Recital Slated At Cove Creek

A joint choral and piano recital will be given by the students of Miss Stiles and Mrs. Tait in the Cove Creek High School auditorium Tuesday evening December 21, at 7:30. The public is cordially invited.

## BOYS TOWN



This is the dedication of the 11-ton Bedford-stone statue of the late Monsignor E. J. Flanagan and four of his boys. The gift of ten thousand showmen and created by Eugene Kormendi, resident sculptor of Notre Dame, the statue was commemorated in the memory of the founder of Boys Town whose slogan was, "There is no such thing as a bad boy."

## Abrams Says Interest In Education Great

### STARTS NEW TERM



Miss Helen Underdown, who is starting a new four-year term as Registrar of Deeds of Watauga county. Miss Underdown, who has served in this office for twenty years, won a majority of about 750 in the past election, to far outdistance other candidates on the Democratic ticket. (Cuts of other new officials have been delayed by the engravers.)

## Baptists Have Xmas Program

"Star of the Christ Child" will be presented by the choir of the First Baptist Church Wednesday, December 22, at 7:30 p. m.

The program follows: "Yuletide Echoes, Organ Prelude—Hodson; They Who Walked in Darkness, Choir; The Herald's Cry, Soprano solo and Choir—Rachel Vance (soloist); Hail His Name, Choir; He Comes, Men's chorus, soprano and alto duet; Message of the Shepherds—Tenor solo, soprano solo, and choir, Ted Barnett, tenor soloist; Doris Fowler, soprano; Sweetly Sleep, contralto solo and choir—Irma Norris, soloist; The Bethlehem Star, baritone solo and woman's trio—Doris Anderson Fowler, soprano soloist; Chimes of Christmas, choir; We've Told the Christmas Story, bass solo and choir—J. T. C. Wright, bass soloist; Glory in the Highest, (Finale, with soprano solo), choir—Rachel Vance, soloist; Hallelujah Chorus, organ postlude—Handel.

## Lutheran Church Scene Cantata

The choir of Grace Lutheran church, assisted by members of the music department of the college, will present the Cantata, "The Shepherds Christmas", in a candle-light service, Thursday evening December 16 at 7:00 p. m. in the church auditorium. The choir is directed by Mr. Hoyt Saffrit with Mr. O. M. Harwell of the college faculty, organist.

## DUGGINS TO BE HONORED BY C. OF C. MEETING

Gathering To Take Form Of Appreciation Meeting To Football Organization; Centennial To Be Discussed; Consolidation Money Campaigns A Topic.

A very important meeting of the Chamber of Commerce will be held Monday night, December 20, at 7:00 p. m. at the Skyline restaurant. Dinner will be served promptly at 7:00. This is a dual meeting, first an appreciation banquet to Coach Duggins and his staff, A. S. T. C., and three or four of the outstanding players from the football team. That part of the program will be in charge of William Garvey, assisted by Wade E. Brown and some others.

The Mountaineers developed a mighty football team this year, not only winning their association championship, but getting national recognition. Coach Duggins has been chosen the coach of the year for colleges of our grade, and it is fitting that we should recognize them for what they have meant to the college and to Boone.

The second part of the meeting will be a business meeting. In addition to ordinary reports and general business three or four very important items will be discussed, one which perhaps will be the centennial program, for Watauga county will be 100 years old and fitting celebration should be planned. The question of consolidating charity and benevolent drives will be brought up for discussion. The hospital program and a very important campaign being launched in its behalf will be discussed. It is hoped that all members of the Chamber of Commerce can be present.

In connection with the business discussions representatives of the Junior Chamber of Commerce and the Business and Professional Woman's Club will be present.

## Deer Stocking Program Starts

The first pair of deer for the Sampson game preserve in Watauga county have arrived and have been liberated, as the start of a program sponsored by the Watauga Wildlife Club, which will ultimately result in the securing of 10 bucks and 50 doe for the area, which is said by representatives of the State Wildlife Commission to be admirably suited to the propagation of white tail deer.

Through an arrangement with the landowners 8,000 acres have already been set aside as a game preserve, and it is likely that other forms of wild life will be placed there later. The stocking program is being carried out through the cooperation of the Wildlife Commission.

The Wildlife Club will enforce a closed season in the area for five years, and in the meantime a standing reward of \$50 is offered for information leading to the conviction of anyone killing one of the deer.

## STOCKING FUND GIFTS SOUGHT

The empty stocking fund matinee at the Appalachian Theatre was a success, resulting in the receipt of \$39.17 in cash, and a large number of usable toys. Mrs. John Perry requests that all those desiring to make donations to the fund, do so not later than Thursday, December 16, when the Women's Club will begin the work of packing the candy, toys, clothing, fruits and nuts for about 125 needy children of the vicinity. In line with the movement for all the kiddies here to have a happy and bountiful Christmas the Rotary Club announces that it is taking care of 44 crippled children with complete Christmas boxes.

## Christmas Program At College Friday

The High School Band, the mixed chorus, and the dramatics club will render a Christmas program at the College auditorium Friday evening December 17th at 7:30. The public is cordially invited to attend. There will be no admission charges.

## Former Boone Professor Addresses Teachers and Pleads For Children Of State; Discusses Education Commission Report.

Speaking on "The State Education Commission Report — Its Premises and Its Promises," Dr. W. Amos Abrams, associate editor for "North Carolina Education," urged the teachers of the Watauga County Unit of North Carolina Education and the visitors to "Raise voices for the little child who is too young to speak for himself." Dr. Abrams, who is well known in this section and throughout the state for the work he has done on behalf of North Carolina children, spoke at the regular meeting of the Watauga Unit of N. C. E. A. on Tuesday, December 7, the anniversary of the declaration of the second world conflict. He was introduced by Cratis Williams of the college faculty. The meeting was held in the College auditorium.

In summarizing his advice to the teachers, Dr. Abrams stated that "the people of North Carolina have never been so interested in public education as they are now" and he insisted that it was time for all forces to join together and "declare war against ignorance."

Dr. Abrams gave a background of the State Education Commission Report to show that it was not the "governor's report" but the "people's report." He called it the "Bill of Rights," a "charter" (Continued on page 8)

## Firecrackers Are Contraband

Police Chief Verne Greene says various complaints are reaching his department from all sections of the town regarding the firecracker nuisance, and says a vigorous effort will be made to enforce the law in this connection. Mr. Greene points out that after a number of children had been mutilated by the explosives, the last Legislature passed a state-wide law, prohibiting the possession and use of firecrackers, and set a minimum fine of \$50 for violation of the statute.

### Juniors To Name New Set Officers

The Junior Order will meet Monday, December 20, at which time a new slate of officers will be elected for the coming year. Nominations for councilor are: Jack Storie and Ned Norris; vice-councilor, Bill Hodges; recording secretary, Ralph Greene, and Gill Phillips; financial secretary, Clyde R. Greene; treasurer, W. C. Greer; conductor, Henry Austin; Warden, Howard Hodges; inside sentinel, Mac Fletcher; outside sentinel, Lillard Denny and Edward Cooper; chaplain, Glenn Howell, Howard Shore and Greer Hodges; trustees, Ralph Greene and Jack Storie. All members are urged to be present.