

Happy New Year 1949

WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

An Independent Weekly Newspaper—Established in the Year 1888

THE DEMOCRAT
is your best and most economical medium or advertising. With more than 2,600 paid-up cash subscriptions, your message goes to 13,000 people, on the universally used basis of five readers to each subscriber.

IMPORTANT!
The date on your address label shows the date your subscription will expire, and the date your paper will be stopped unless sooner renewed. The Democrat is operating strictly on a cash in advance basis.

VOL. LXI, NO. 27.

BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1948.

FIVE CENTS A COPY

KING STREET

BY
ROB RIVERS

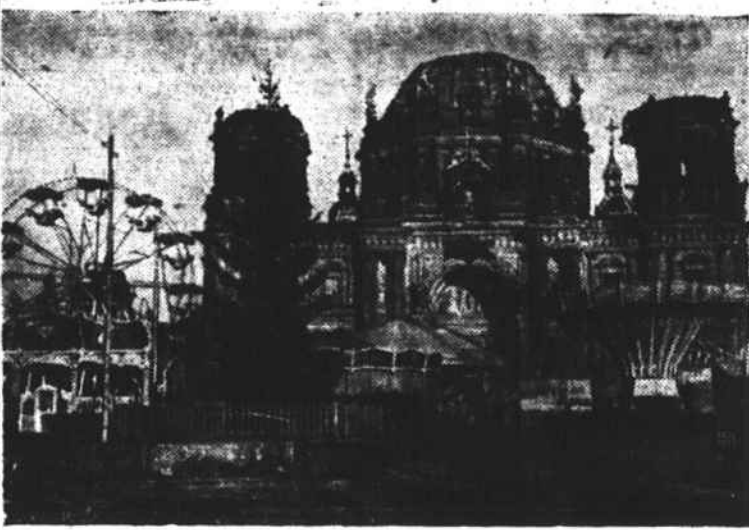
CHRISTMAS passes on, leaving in its wake the wretched looking Christmas trees, with bits of tinsel and stuff still hanging from the branches which grew barer each day from the warmth of the Yule log . . . about as sad looking as the bird's nest from which a trio of red-breasts pecked last spring. In most homes the kiddies have stored enough stuff, so that one may walk about in comparative safety, without the danger of taking a joy ride on a roller skate, a scooter, or the running gears of a Caterpillar truck . . . The Christmas day fowl has gone through the sandwich stage, and is about ready for that culinary dish of mystery—hash; the gay wrappings have been burned, and aside from the indigestion which many suffer at this gay season, and an occasional hangover, everybody is all settled down to try to catch up a few days work, and to start a brand new year, which most everybody hopes will be better than the last, . . . and a brand new set of resolutions designed to make the Christmas spirit abide throughout the next twelve months.

"WHITE CHRISTMAS" was a bit more than a tinsel dream to the residents of this area, for King Winter plunked down a full-fledged snow on Friday to fix the terrain for Santa's immortal reindeer team . . . Kiddies hail the fall of the beautiful as an answer to a childish prayer, while the oldsters shiver against the blast, and wish that Christmas might have been warm and sunny . . . The crowds of shoppers which thronged the town Friday . . . the slosh of the tires in the slush, slinging the muddy snow on the costumes of pedestrians who wandered too close to the line of traffic . . . the crusty snow of Saturday afternoon, almost bearing a man's weight and cracking like pistol shots when a foot went through . . . the sound of tortured steel as tire chains bite at the concrete . . . the cheery "Merry Christmas" heard again and again as shoppers rubbed elbows in the crowded stores . . . the silence of the city on a closed Saturday . . . the tang in the air on a cloudless morning when the mercury has stooped near the zero mark, and the fragrance of the smoke drifting from a chimney where the flames are devouring the bits of pine kindling.

MONT GLOVIER, Valle Crucis orchardist, drops by to wish us a happy holiday season, and leave us a basket of his finest apples to add a rosy touch to the fruit basket . . . His thoughtfulness one of the things which made Christmas merry . . . The fellow who goes far out of his way on his busy trip to town to hope the holidays bring cheer to our door . . . The old friends who call us on the phone every Christmas morning to find out how everything's going . . . and the many folks who send us a card . . . all these things add up to happiness and contentment . . . and we wish the log on the hearth had the staying qualities of a Johns-Manville product . . . and be immune to the lazy lapping of the insistent flame.

HELPING THE MISSUS do a job of "grade-mothering" down at the High School as the kiddies stacked the books and got ready for a date with Santa . . . Principal Wey going from room to room, looking in on all the "parties" and having a word with the parents . . . Thoroughly enjoyed the few minutes spent with the thirty youngsters and their teachers, and going away as usual marvelling at the quality of the instruction at the quality of the understanding of the faculty, and the near perfect demeanor of (Continued on page 4)

RED CHRISTMAS FAIR



Disregarding the dispute between East and West sector governments, Berlin had its traditional Christmas fairs with ferris wheels, carousels and colored flags. The most famous of these fairs is that at the Lustgarten, shown here, now in the Soviet sector. The bombed out Berlin dome furnishes a background for the gala event with which Berlin is chasing grim winter reality.

Babson Sees Slight Trade Dip In 1949

HONORED



CLYDE R. GREENE

GREENE GIVEN SCOUT AWARD

Mr. Clyde R. Greene, local civic and business leader, was awarded the Silver Beaver medal for distinguished service to the young boys of this community and district by Old Hickory Council, Boy Scouts of America, at a meeting held recently in Winston-Salem.

Gridders Guests Commerce Group

At their meeting last week, the Chamber of Commerce had as special guests the Coaches and stellar players on the championship Appalachian football team, and special recognition was given Coach Duggins, who was adjudged the "Coach of the year" by the Southern sports writers association. Coach Mast, Coach Hoover and Coach Broome were recognized as were John Caskey, J. C. Honeycutt and Herman Bryson, star grid performers.

Perry Greene, and R. D. Hodges, Jr., of the Junior Chamber of Commerce spoke of the interest of their organization in a centennial celebration next year, and Watt H. Gregg and S. C. Eggers were appointed to work with other organizations, in an effort to formulate specific recommendations in this regard. R. D. Hodges, Jr. recommended (Continued on page 5)

Soft Spots Seen in Economy Of Nation in New Year by Noted Economist; Individuals Urged To Get Out of Debt; No Immediate War Seen.

By Roger W. Babson

1. Total volume of business for 1949 will be less than that of 1948. There surely will be many soft spots.

General Business

2. Most industries will show smaller net profits. This means that, in many cases dividends will be less in 1949.

3. Military preparedness will be a new and powerful industry which this country never heretofore experienced in peace time. It is destined to bolster employment for some years ahead, but not the standard-of-living.

4. Inventories quoted both at their dollar values and in volume will increase during 1949. Most raw material piles and manufactured goods will be in greater supply during 1949.

Commodity Prices

5. Some rationing or priorities may be attempted in 1949. The public will make demands for price controls in the case of certain products. Beware of installment purchases in 1949.

6. We expect the peak in wholesale commodity prices has been reached for this cycle. We, therefore, advise going easy on inventories. 1949 is a time to get out of debt and stay out of debt.

7. The retail price of some goods, other than food products, may be higher during 1949, but we believe that the Cost-of-Living Index has turned downward.

8. Retail price changes lag after wholesale price changes. This explains why we expect many retail prices on good quality merchandise to hold up for awhile after wholesale prices decline.

Farm Outlook

9. The total farm income for 1949 should be less than that of 1948, due to lower prices for wheat, corn, pork, poultry, eggs and certain dairy products. Farmers should diversify more in 1949, get out of debt, putting surplus money into savings and prepare for real trouble some day.

10. The supply of certain vegetables and fruits should increase during 1949. The price of these should fall off, barring some weather, insect or blight catastrophe.

11. Poultry and dairy products will also increase in volume during 1949, prices averaging less than 1948 prices.

12. Farmers will continue to work for extensions of subsidies. (Continued on page 4)

WATAUGANS TO GO TO POLLS ON QUESTION OF WINE, BEER

Election Board Calls Vote for March 1 To Determine Legal Fate of Malt and Fermented Beverages; Registration Period Designated

Acting on the petition of the required number of qualified voters, the Watauga County Election Board, in special session Tuesday morning, set aside the first day of March, 1949, as a special election day, for the purpose of approving or disapproving the continued legal sale of beer and wine in Watauga county.

Petitions have been circulated for some time requesting the first prohibition election held here since 1933, and as soon as the names could be checked to be sure of their being registered voters, election officials set the election date, it is understood.

The official election call states that the election shall be held at the various polling places in the county, and that as in the case of general elections, none but legally qualified voters may participate.

Registration books will be open for three weeks, it is pointed out, beginning Monday, February 5, and will be at the various polling on each Saturday during the period.

Yuletide Quiet Prevails in City

Christmas was observed in a safe and sane manner by the folks of Boone, there being little to distinguish the day from the usual Sabbath.

All the business places of the town closed Saturday, after enjoying heavy trade by last-minute shoppers on Friday and it is believed that in most instances business finally reached about the proportions of last year, at least that seems to be the opinion among the retailers.

Merchants also kept their establishments closed on Monday, though some caught up some loose ends of business behind locked doors, as they made ready for the big task of inventorying their stocks.

Frigid temperatures kept most of the folks indoors Saturday and Sunday, and despite icy roads, which prevailed a portion of the time, the local ambulance service reports no calls from automobile accidents. No disorders of consequence were reported by law enforcement officers.

Bids Received on Laundry Plant

Northrup and O'Brien, Winston-Salem architects, have advertised for bids for the construction of a one hundred thousand dollar laundry and general service building at Appalachian State Teachers College, it has been learned.

The building, which will be two stories tall, will be made of reinforced concrete, steel, and a brick and glass exterior. It will measure 140 feet long by 80 feet wide, and will be built in contemporary style.

On the ground floor will be a garage for servicing college vehicles and a machine shop. On the second floor will be a laundry repair shop and general storage area.

\$50,000 Appropriated
The 1947 State Legislature appropriated \$50,000 for the project, but it will cost about twice that much, said Leet A. O'Brien, senior partner in the architecture firm. Bids must be received in the president's office at the college by Jan. 28, he said.

Highway Postal Service To Greensboro Assured

DELEGATION FROM TRUMAN



A delegation of citizens from Truman, Minn., population 1300, called at the White House recently to invite the President to attend the town's golden jubilee celebration June 17-18. Dale Riddle, wearing glasses, who is mayor of Truman, is shown presenting a humidor of "non-campaign" cigars to Matthew Connelly, secretary to President Truman.

Organization Slated For Hospital Drive

HEADS UP, JIMMY



Two-year-old Jimmy Biesele of Brooklyn, N. Y., is learning to walk for the first time after being stricken with polio. The football helmet is for protection against falls. Jimmy's treatment is made possible by the March of Dimes.

Postal Receipts Hit New Record

Postal receipts at the Boone postoffice have hit a new high during the year 1948. Postmaster John E. Brown, Jr., states, adding that the income during the year just closing will be perhaps better than \$30,000, running well ahead of the former banner year of 1945, when the postal "take" locally was \$28,000.

Christmas volume this year was greater than ever before both in the matter of greeting cards, and parcel post. Monday, December 20, being the busiest day in the history of the Boone office. One hundred thousand Christmas cards were dispatched, as against about 75,000 a year ago.

Improved Postal Service To Go Into Effect in February; Marks Culmination of Long Efforts on Part Local Postmasters; Doughton Goes To Bat.

Highway postoffice service between Greensboro and Boone, which has been sought by the community for a number of years, is to become a reality February 4, Postmaster John E. Brown, Jr., was advised Tuesday.

The new postal service, which operates exactly on the plan used by railway postoffices, and which will greatly improve the mail service into Boone, was first promoted by Wiley G. Hartzog, during his term as postmaster. His successor, Mr. Brown, shared his interest in this project, and has devoted much time and effort to its promotion, which had the complete support of Congressman Doughton.

The highway postoffice will leave Greensboro, daily except Sunday at 2 a. m., and will be routed by Elkin, North Wilkesboro, Laurel Springs, West Jefferson, arriving in Boone at 8 a. m. The eastbound schedule will leave Boone at 1:45 and arrive at Greensboro at 7:45 p. m. The present mail to Winston-Salem, Salem, which has been leaving Boone at 1 o'clock will leave at 3 p. m. when the new service is inaugurated.

Postmaster Brown states that the department now has the highway mail coaches available, and that they will be operated by the regular railway mail service workers. Two postal workers are assigned to each car, the mail is "worked" en route, as on the rails, and no stops are made, except for the purpose of depositing or receiving additional mail.

The highway postoffices have been received with favor in other sections of the country, and have been designed particularly to afford adequate postal facilities to regions which have no rail lines.

March of Dimes Termed Urgent

Next month's campaign for funds for the infantile paralysis foundation, comes in the nature of an emergency effort, according to a telegram received by Bob Agle, local chairman of the March of Dimes, from Basil O'Connor, head of the national organization.

With a prediction of other epidemics of polio next year, Mr. O'Connor says the January March of Dimes must be the greatest ever and net at least thirty million dollars if the obligations of the foundation are to be met.

The text of the message is as follows:

"I am sending this wire to all fund-raising chairmen because of my duty to advise you of the importance of the March of Dimes Drive. In 1948 alone it has cost seventeen million dollars to care for infantile paralysis patients. Of this amount national headquarters sent to chapters six million, five hundred thousand dollars. Our epidemic emergency aid fund at national headquarters is now completely exhausted. Many chapter treasuries have been totally depleted. Make no mistake about it—this is an emergency situation. If we are to continue to help polio victims and be prepared for epidemics next year and continue our research and educational programs, the March of Dimes next January must be the greatest ever and net at least thirty million. Without this sum we cannot fulfill our pledges to patients and the public. Please do everything to help."

Mr. Agle and his co-workers will institute an aggressive campaign to raise Watauga's share of the infantile paralysis fund at the earliest possible date.

To Order Equipment
The special committee named to secure bids on the needed equipment for the hospital, met Tuesday evening with Dr. J. B. Whittington of Winston-Salem, noted hospital consultant, for the purpose of checking over the equipment lists, bids received, etc., looking to the actual placing of orders for the needed supplies.