

From Our Early Files

Items From The Democrat Of February 3, 1916

Little Miss Marjorie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse F. Robbins, after a severe attack of pneumonia, is now improving, and her early recovery is expected.

Mrs. Martha Gentry of Jefferson, is visiting her daughter, Mrs. J. G. Horton in Boone. She was accompanied here by her son, Rev. A. H. Gentry.

Mrs. Rachel Coffey, widow of the late Thomas Coffey of Caldwell county, died at her home near Patterson last Thursday. Her brother and sister, Miss Jennie and Mr. W. C. Coffey attended the funeral, returning to their home last Monday. Deceased was a good, kind, Christian lady, and was well known to many in Watauga who will hear of her death with genuine sorrow.

The mail carrier from Blowing Rock to Boone is grumbling, and justly too, we think, from the fact that road overseers allow snow drifts to remain in the highway until the traveling public is forced to move them to make travel possible. He says it was with the greatest difficulty that he got through with the mail on Tuesday, owing to the terrible snow drifts in the road.

Mrs. Thomas Hopkins, after an illness of more than thirteen months, died at her home in Elk Park on last Thursday, leaving a husband and two children. The remains, accompanied by her immediate family and a few friends, passed through the village Friday, en route to Stony Fork, where they were laid to rest in the family graveyard.

Mrs. Stonewall Jackson of Charlotte, widow of the old general, has been a visitor in Washington. One day last week she was in the Senate gallery, and at the President's request, occupied his reserved seat in the executive gallery. Mrs. Jackson was also a dinner guest at the White House while away.

Mr. William Randolph Hearst enjoyed a long flight in an airplane.

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THIS WEEK IN WASHINGTON

Outstanding during the past weeks in congressional circles was the vote by which Dean Acheson was confirmed by the senate as secretary of state—83 to 6.

Facts are that every senator was anxious to disassociate himself with the public hearing on the Acheson nomination which broke a precedent of more than 160 years in the government. Of those six senators who voted against him, Homer Capehart and William E. Jenner of Indiana had not as yet apparently weighed the Indiana vote on last November 2. For that vote swept in a Democratic governor and an entire Democratic state ticket, and came within something like 15,000 votes of sweeping the state for Truman—a state which had been doped as 150,000 for the Republican ticket.

So Capehart and Jenner just cannot read the figures on the score board, according to observers here in Washington. Langer of North Dakota, of course, is against any American foreign policy and his vote was not anticipated.

The two votes which could not be tabulated to any degree of certainty were those of Sen. William F. Knowland of California and Styles Bridges of New Hampshire. Knowland followed the line of several influential newspapers in his state—influential insofar as Knowland is concerned but not otherwise—and of course Bridges has always been unpredictable.

Sen. Kenneth Wherry has been consistently wrong on foreign policy ever since he has been in the senate. His vote against Acheson when he came up for approval as under-secretary of state in the 80th congress. At least Wherry is consistent.

Colorado. This trio, George, Byrd and Johnson consistently voted against the administration in the last congress.

The party ratio on the agriculture committee has gone from 7 to 6 up to 8 to 5. In other words there are eight Democrats and five Republicans on the new committee. The geographic representation has been somewhat broadened by the addition of freshman Sen. Clinton Anderson of New Mexico, former secretary of agriculture. Iowa continues on the committee with Guy M. Gillette Democrat, taking over the post of George A. Wilson whom Gillette defeated in November.

Chairman Elmer Thomas of Oklahoma says he favors a frigid 90 per cent of parity program instead of the present sliding scale as posed by the Hope-Akin long range farm act. Others may change their minds as did Thomas who during the last session voted for the flexible parity price program.

Sen. Margaret Chase Smith of Maine, a Republican of course, has a refreshing and probably new concept of Democrats and Republicans. Says Senator Smith: "Basically there is no difference between the rank and file of the Democrats and the rank and file of the Republicans of this country. Equally there is no difference between the consciences and morals of the big labor and those of big business. Control of a political party by either big labor or big business is equally wrong and should be opposed by the people. The political parties belong to all the people, not just to the more articulate pressure groups."

The present rent control law expires March 31. Sen. Francis J. Myers of Pennsylvania, the Democratic senate whip, has introduced a bill which would put new construction under rent control, establish control over converted housing units and permanent apartment hotels, prohibit new leases providing higher rent, give the government the right to regulate evictions and restore to the housing expediter the right to sue violators for triple damages and on criminal grounds.

County Agent Sees Need for Safe Farm Driveways

The farmer who condemns cities because of narrow streets and blind alleys may have a similar traffic hazards right in his own front yard, says L. E. Tuckwiller, county agent for the State College extension service.

Mr. Tuckwiller refers to the farm driveway, which he says, is a blind alley of weeds on many farms. "More than one third of our farm accident victims are from motor vehicle mishaps," he adds.

The National Safety Council recommends the following procedure in building a safe driveway:

1. Park the car in the driveway with the front bumper ten feet from the nearest edge of the pavement or traveled portion of the highway.
2. Measure a distance of about 700 feet or 290 paces along the highway to the left and place a

marker at the edge of the pavement on the side nearest the driveway entrance.

3. In the same manner set another marker 700 feet in the opposite direction but this second marker should be on the side of the highway opposite the driveway entrance.
4. Sit in the driver's seat of the car. If the markers can be seen, the sight distances are proper if the traffic going by the farm does not exceed 60 miles per hour. If the markers cannot be seen, to make the driveway safe. If a heavy, slow-starting truck will be using the driveway, the markers should be set 830 feet away in each direction instead of 700 feet.

Mr. Tuckwiller called attention to the fact that a highway right-of-way is usually 66 feet in width. If it is necessary to trim bushes or remove obstructions on this right-of-way, the matter should be taken up with the highway official under whose jurisdiction it falls, he said.

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"MARKET BASKET"

The Agriculture Department reports a drop of slightly more than five per cent in the retail cost of the family "market basket" of farm products in the last six months. By "market basket" is meant an amount of farm food products equal to the average annual purchases by a family of three average consumers in the 1935-39 period. The average retail cost of the "market basket" was \$708 in July, highest on record. The cost was reported less than \$675, by Dec. 31.

The price received by the farmer for the "market basket" was estimated at \$343 late in the year, as compared with a record \$382 last January.

In a reshuffling of committee assignments as radical as possible within the seniority system, Democrats in house and senate have picked committees which will put through the Truman program. Where the rub may come, insofar as the administration is concerned, is in the senate and house appropriations and finance committees which must furnish the money to carry out the program enacted by the congress.

For instance, on the senate finance committee there are two new members, Clyde R. Hoey of North Carolina and J. Howard McGrath, the Democratic national committee chairman. Besides these two, the committee includes Scott W. Lucas of Illinois, the Democratic floor leader. Then there are Walter George of Georgia, Tom Connally of Texas and Harry Byrd of Virginia, plus Edwin C. Johnson of

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Soft-coal operators have reported a fifty-day coal supply on hand. Their above-ground stockpiles total 70,000,000 tons, the highest in nearly ten years, due in part to the mild Eastern winter which has cut coal demands.

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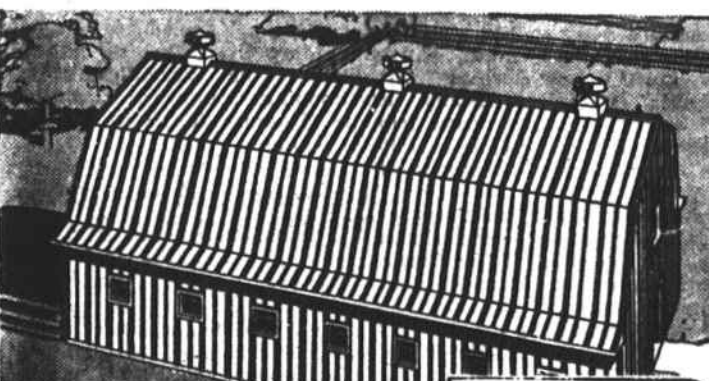
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