

KING STREET BY ROB RIVERS

SETTLING DOWN to business, trying to get into the well-known groove, following Christmas a vacation period... Santa Claus, with his string of reindeers, no doubt led by Rudolph with the red nose, drops down a whole "passel" of stuff, the kiddies and their elders share in the fun, the most of the bright wrappings, tinsel cord, gift cards and the like has been gathered up, while the Christmas trees, already looking forlorn, though actually as spectacular as ever, are beginning to take their places near the garbage cans, waiting for Carl Teague, Hiram Carroll or Jimmy West to cart them away from the bright warm firesides to the big trash pile, the bits of decorations still hanging to their withering leaves... 'Twas a glorious day... the merriment of the children, the joy of the older ones, the crackle of the logs on the fire... the gifts of affection and esteem, the gay "Merry Christmas" greetings... the fellowship of old friends, and the mellow friendly spirit which pervades this one time above all others... Particularly enjoyed the bright poinsettia, a gift from our good neighbor, Mrs. Esther Boone, and the scores of greeting cards, from folks we know as like throughout the town and county, as well as from those who have gone away... The other gifts, the lavish feasting... Christmas at home is living at its best... If Christmas day should endure forever it would be our notion of an earthly paradise and a just reward for the faithful.

CHRISTMAS MONDAY... sadly retracing our steps back to "the Street" and putting in a short shift a day ahead of our co-workers... Business closed down... While we are reviving the Watauga Democrat, Stanley Harris peeks in on the Chamber of Commerce, and Grady Tugman makes a couple of trips to the Watauga Hardware... The Sinclair boys dish up some gas and cokes... all other spots in the immediate environs of the Democrat closed... Good many people on the streets however, despite the fact that all the doors were shut, and the vehicular traffic rushes through town in long swift lines... Tuesday the doors swung open, the accumulation of mail was cared for, and the retailers got set for the annual inventory, in this last week of the old year.

IN THESE CLOSING DAYS of the year 1949 there is considerable casting about in the uncertainties of the ensuing twelve months... The economists and the prophets use well-trimmed pencils and attempt to figure out the future cost of living, the next move of Uncle Joe, the domestic political situation, and the turn of the wheel of fortune... We who inhabit the villages and the small towns and the farm districts which combine to form some of the vitals of the body politic, are wont to look on the one principal street, specifically King Street, and wonder what improvements can be made in the days out yonder... The development of the town, its growth and progress has been a slow process... All the most enduring structures have been erected piecemeal... It's a cozy thought that our community won't be a city, a manufacturing center, or an important mart in the commerce of the nation... It will continue to be Boone... the best small town we have known... a community of friendly, neighborly, and for the most part, good citizens, who get along together, make a bit of money, and live close to the soil, and the woods, and the peaks, and the place will continue to enjoy a wholesome growth, in proportion to the growth of the College, and the revitalized agricultural enterprise in the country roundabout... The cement will be mixed, the stone and the brick placed, and new places of business erected, not for patriotic reasons, but as our people, who have built the town to now, see opportunities for lucrative investments in new construction... We could, however do an awful lot with what we now have to improve the place... to enhance its appearance, and to make it more to our liking... When it suits us... when we do with it what we can new residents won't be a problem, they couldn't be kept out.

DURING THE HOLIDAYS we saw a good many things about town... Things which we don't take into account while we are working... Saw the place, if you please through the eyes of a stranger, and one thing stood out like the proverbial sore thumb—the considerable number of unsightly and practically useless structures which have been allowed to remain alongside the paths of progress... and the unkempt condition of our vacant lots... During 1950 we should team together, be rid of some of the

Rotary Guest



LAIZ FRANCA LESSA

BRAZILIAN TO BE SPEAKER AT MEET BOONE ROTARY CLUB

District Rotary Organization Gives South American Educational Award; Other Foreign-Born Students To Be Rotary Guests

The local Rotary club will be host to students from foreign countries at a luncheon meeting tonight (Thursday) at 6:30 o'clock. All such students at Appalachian State Teachers College are invited to be their guests. In addition the club will entertain Mr. Laiz Franca Lessa of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, who will be the principal speaker. Mr. Lessa is a student at Lenoir Rhyne College, Hickory, and is the guest for the year of the 280th district of Rotary International, of which the Boone club is a unit.

At the District Conference last April in Hendersonville, the Rotarians of the district agreed to establish a fund which would permit a deserving student of South America to come to the western section of North Carolina and attend one of the colleges of the section and at the same time time visit among the Rotary clubs. Laiz Lessa was the young man chosen by the Rotary Club of Rio de Janeiro to be the recipient of this award. He arrived in Hickory last September and enrolled at Lenoir Rhyne where he is taking courses which will prepare him for his chosen profession as teacher of English in his native Brazil.

Laiz Lessa is a senior at Raballo College in the city of Rio and upon completing his year of study at Lenoir Rhyne will return home to finish his college course there. He is the son of a Baptist minister and all the members of his family are devout members of the church. He has an older brother, Eduardo, who is attending Georgetown College in Kentucky to prepare himself for mission work among the Indians of the Amazon Valley in northern Brazil.

Laiz Lessa says he has fallen in love with the States, as he calls our country, and especially with western North Carolina. Best of all he would like to remain here, but he feels that he has a mission to perform, that of teaching our language to his people and most especially of acting as a good-will ambassador between Brazil and the United States. Lessa said, when interviewed, that even in Brazil, which generally is very friendly toward the United States, there are those who desire to sow discord among the two peoples. This evil propaganda is spread particularly among young people and among the students of that country.

So Lessa, while enjoying to the fullest his stay in our land and being fascinated by many of our customs, is looking forward to the time when he can return home and tell of our kind of democracy and the American way of life to his friends and those whom he will teach in the classrooms of his country.

Rotary International, through its Paul Harris Fellowships, is spending this year a sum in excess of \$300,000 to provide scholarships for worthy and promising young men and women from all over the world so that they might attend the college or university of their choice in the United States or abroad. District 280 is offering this additional scholarship in order to supplement the great educational program of its organization and thus assist in the promotion of good will and friendship among the peoples of the world.

Burley Prices Steady in Belt

Average prices for most burley tobacco sold during the three day period of December 19-21 were fairly steady with the week before. According to the Federal State Market News Service, changes that occurred were normal. These were only 50c to \$1.00 for the most part. Volume of offerings was heavy. Gross sales amounted to 56,640,121 pounds for an average of \$47.24 per hundred. The average was 7c higher than for the previous week.

The weekly general quality of the offerings has been practically the same each week so far this season. There was, however, a slight increase in the proportion of baskets in unsafe order this week. Bulk of sales continued to consist of fair and low leaf, tips and lugs, low to good flying and nondescript.

After the Wednesday auctions the markets recessed for the holidays. Sales will be resumed on Wednesday, January 4, 1950. Marketing has been in progress for 18 sales days. A gross volume of 322,750,264 pounds has been sold for \$46.44 per hundred. For the pre-holiday period of sales last year, totaling 17 days, 370,313,792 pounds had been marketed for \$47.76.

Consignments to the associations this week, under the Government loan program, were estimated at only 2 to 3 percent of sales. For the season these deliveries are around 4 percent.

In the final release the crop reporting board revised the production estimate downward for the 1949 burley crop. The current estimate is 586,257,000 pounds. The previous estimate was 589,907,000 pounds.

Many Wataugans On Honor Roll

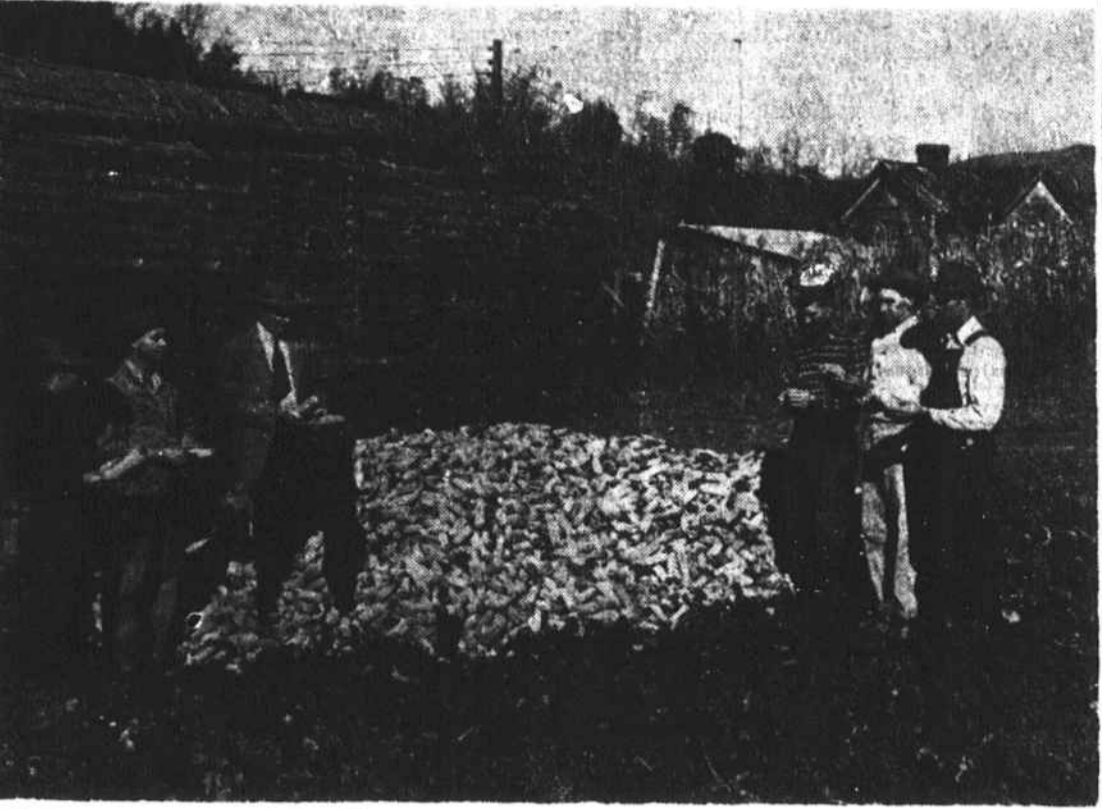
Registrar H. R. Eggers of Appalachian State Teachers college has just released the honor roll for the first quarter of the year. Among those with honor roll ratings are the following from Watauga county:

- William Alexander, Shulls Mills; J. A. Barnes, Boone; C. H. Blackburn, Jr., Boone; Elmer Bates, Boone; Richard Bingham, Boone; Gladys S. Blanton, Boone; Cloyd Bolick, Boone; Homer Brown, Boone; Annie Mae Carroll, Boone; Lyle Cook, Boone; Benjamin Adams Farthing, Valle Crucis; Mary Sue Greene, Boone; Bobbie B. Jenkins, Boone; Guy V. Lail, Shulls Mills; Verdola Keller, Boone; Eugenia Ruth Luttrell, Shulls Mills; Mary Moss, Boone; Laurence Phillips, Boone; Martha Qualls, Boone; Kent Robinson, Reese; Reba Ann Smith, Boone.



"TIME, YOU OLD GYPSY MAN" ... Every 12 months, as the earth spins along its course, we fondly re-enact the cherished old conceit of the aged and worn man, representing the Old Year, meeting for a brief instant with his cherubic successor, the New Year. For in that bit of make-believe are embodied the resolutions we would make for ourselves, our faith in the future and our hope that things will be better next year.

CHAMPIONSHIP CORN CROP



Shown are members of the Watauga county judging committee and a portion of the crop raised by Lewis Norris of Reese, which was the banner corn yield in the county contest, sponsored by the Farm Bureau and the USDA county council. Mr. Norris grew 131.1 bushels of corn on a measured acre. The members of the judging committee are left to right: Sam Carner, farm agent, Avery county; L. E. Tuckwiller, Watauga farm agent; Dewitt Barnett, past president Watauga Farm Bureau; Barton Farthing, veterans' farm instructor; C. A. Clay, Farm Bureau president and county commissioner; and Sanford Creed, representing the AAA. (Photo Palmer's Photo Service.)

Business Volume May Decline Slightly in 1950, Says Babson

Noted Economist Issues Business and Financial Outlook; Business Life of Nation Reviewed; Drop in Business Seen; GOP to Remain "in Doghouse."

by Roger W. Babson

1. The total volume of business for 1950 will be less than that of 1949, due primarily to the unfortunate labor conflicts. Considering that the innocent consumer will be the chief sufferer and will be obliged to pay the bills, it seems too bad that labor troubles should upset the labor cart.

Labor Outlook
2. Even with all the threats, there will be few wage increases during 1950. On the other hand, all labor negotiations take the minds of both the employees and the management off their regular business. However these negotiations come out, they result in a loss from the standpoint of the country as a whole.

3. There will be fewer strikes in 1950 than in 1949, but there will not be fewer extended negotiations which are very expensive in themselves.

4. The Taft-Hartley law will continue to stand throughout 1950, although many schemes for detouring this law will be devised.

5. The great drive against the big companies will be for pensions and/or for sick and other benefits. These will probably be helpful to the wageworkers and may aid in ironing out the business cycle, but they will be paid for by the consumers.

6. It is hoped that all parties will begin to realize during 1950 that the real road to national progress is through increasing production and greater efficiency. This is the bright light we see in the labor situation.

Commodity Prices
7. Movements in commodity prices during 1950 will vary with different groups of industries and of products, but altogether there will be a general lowering during 1950.

8. We, therefore, advise going easy on inventories. 1950 is a time to get out of debt and stay out of debt. Speculation in commodities should be discouraged in 1950.

9. We believe that the cost of living index has turned down for the present. The average for 1950 will be less than for 1949.

10. Practically all retail prices will average less in 1950 than in 1949, notwithstanding the excess of money mentioned under 27, 28 and 29 below.

| 1950 IN A NUTSHELL | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|
| General Business | Off | 5% |
| National Income | Off | 5% |
| Farm Income | Off | 15% |
| Bituminous Coal | Up | 5% |
| Anthracite | Off | 5% |
| Crude Oil Products | Up | 5% |
| Steel Output | Off | 5% |
| Automobile Manufactures | Off | 15% |
| Building and Construction | Off | 7% |
| Natural Gas | Up | 5% |
| Foreign Trade | No change | |
| Airline Passenger Miles | Up | 5% |
| Military Activities including Aircraft | Up | 20% |
| Retail Trade (\$ volume) | Off | 3% to 10% |

11. The total farm income for 1950 should be less than that of 1949, which means lower prices on the average for wheat, corn, pork, poultry, eggs and certain dairy products. Farmers should diversify more in 1950, get out of debt and put their surplus money into savings, in preparation for the next crop failure.

12. The supply of certain canned vegetables and fruits (except citrus) should be greater during 1950 than at the same time during 1949. The prices of these products should fall off, barring some weather, insect or blight catastrophe.

13. Poultry and dairy products will especially increase in volume during 1950 with prices averaging less than in 1949.

14. Farmers will continue to work to hold present subsidies. It is popular to criticize the vast amount of crops which the Government owns or is making loans on, but this surplus in storage may be a great blessing when the next crop failure or war comes.

Taxes
15. The Federal Budget will be increased during 1950 over that for 1949.

16. Over-all Federal Taxes will not be increased during 1950 and there may even be some readjustments to encourage venture capital. Moreover, some of the nuisance taxes may be eliminated or reduced.

17. The long-term capital gains tax of 25% will remain unchanged.

18. There will be many increases in local and state taxes, and more reaching for relief by "sales" taxes or other forms of raising needed funds.

Retail Trade
19. Goods on counters will be of better grade in 1950 than they were in 1949.

20. Markdown sales will continue during 1950 as consumer spending slackens due to a decline in employment and other factors.

21. The dollar value of all retail sales in 1950 will be moderately downward, and the unit volume of retail sales will also be less in 1950 than in 1949.

22. Less will be spent on new buildings and factories during 1950.

Foreign Trade
23. Our exports will be down during 1950 and our imports will be up during 1950 — comparing both with 1949. This will partly be accounted for by the devaluation of the British Pound and other foreign currencies.

24. Foreign credits will continue to be granted during 1950, but some of these will be directed by American business firms and investors. If our Government will get foreign governments to agree that such investments will be exempt from any NEW tax or other legislation by the foreign country in which the investments are made, considerable progress would be noticeable along foreign trade channels.

25. American interests will have more competition from foreign producers of raw materials and of manufactured goods during 1950 than they had during 1949. This will benefit some

American concerns, but be harmful to others.

26. Fear of war with Russia will continue during 1950. World War III will come sometime; but it will not start during 1950. Those in large vulnerable cities should use these years of peace to get some small farm or country home to which they can go in case of war. Such places will be almost unobtainable when war actually comes.

Deficit Financing
27. The supply of money will be increased during 1950, but the price of Government bonds will not change much one way or the other during 1950.

28. In addition to the anticipated Federal deficit the \$3,000,000,000 being distributed as insurance refunds to veterans will be mostly spent.

29. Congress will not change the price of gold during 1950.

DWIGHT CABLE AGAIN HEADS WATAUGA PMA BY FARM VOTE

Farmers Go to Polls and Elect Full Slate of Committeemen To Administer Federal Farm Program; A List of Those Elected.

At the county and community production and marketing administration elections held last week Dwight Cable was re-elected county chairman, O. G. Wineberger, vice-chairman, and H. Neal Blair, regular member. J. M. Burkett was elected first alternate and Sanford Creed, second alternate.

M. L. Shepherd was re-elected chief clerk of the county committee, Thos. L. Wilson, secretary and Forrest Smith, treasurer.

Community committeemen for the fourteen communities are as follows:
Bald Mountain: W. F. Norris, John T. Trivett, James E. Lewis, and Vernon Moretz.
Beaver Dam: Sanford Creed, Conley Norris, G. F. Smitherman, Roby Vines and Clyde Robinson.
Blowing Rock: Charlie Spann, Roy Hartley, W. W. Austin, Q. B. Cannon and S. C. Greene.
Blue Ridge: S. C. Ford, M. O. Coffey, Vance Hartley, Roscoe Cook and Elmer Miller.
Brushy Fork: Grady Bradley, Andy Greer, Joe McNeil, Martin Herman and Cloy Greene.
Cove Creek: M. L. Warren, Jr., Lewis Burkett, J. M. Burkett, D. E. Church and Clint Eggers.
Elk: Albert Greer, Charlie Simmons, J. D. Hampton, Arthur Wheeler and Sherman Greer.
Laurel Creek: Charlie W. Mast, Stacy Moody, Tom Mast, Chas. Trivett and Robert Hagaman.
Meat Camp: Woodrow Wineberger, Vaughn Tugman, Earl D. Moretz, Walter Coffey and Grady McNeil.
New River: Harold Henson, Avery Jackson, Avery Moretz, Blaine Moretz and Darius Hampton.

North Fork: W. C. South, Rom Wilson, Sam South, Jim Wilson and Rolf Wilson.
Shawneehaw: J. L. Triplett, Marshall Farthing, Adren Yates, W. E. Eggers, and W. H. Smith.
Stony Fork: Luther Moretz, A. C. Moretz, Thos. Fairchild, Hayes Wellborn and Jack Greene.
Watauga: B. A. Hodges, Lee Moody, A. A. Mast, Frank Taylor and C. P. Moore.

Barter Group To Appear Here
On January 9, Appalachian State Teachers college will bring to its campus another presentation by the Barter Theatre of Virginia, for the third successive year. The play this year will be Molieres comedy in prose, "The Imaginary Invalid," known also as "The Hypochondriac."

Starring in the performance will be Frederic Warriner, who was introduced to the Appalachian audience two years ago in "Twelfth Night" and again last year as the king in "Hamlet." He was with "Hamlet" company which travelled to Denmark with the production last year.

Warriner, described by Robert Porterfield, founder of the Barter Theatre, as one of the finest young actors in America, is ably supported by a well-known and experienced cast.

The production is sponsored by the Iyecom series at Appalachian State Teachers college, which is bringing a number of outstanding groups and individuals to the campus this year.

Deadline Set Burley Quotas
Applicants for 1950 new grower burley tobacco allotments are again reminded that Jan. 15, 1950 is the final closing date for filing new grower applications.

In order to be eligible for such allotments the applicant must have had two years' experience during the past five years as an operator, tenant or share-cropper in the production of burley tobacco, except in the case of a veteran who must have had one year's experience one of five years preceding his entry into the armed services or since the discharge from the same. Such applicant must also live on the farm and be in charge of the entire operations of the farm.

Stores To Be Closed New Year's Monday
Most of the business houses of the town will be closed next Monday in observance of New Year, in line with the recommendations of the Merchants Association.

The postoffice, bank, and perhaps other public offices are expected to be closed next Monday.

(continued on page eight)