

**WATAUGA DEMOCRAT**

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 1955

**New Auto Tags  
Both Fore And Aft**

For the first time in many years the Department of Motor Vehicles has come through with two auto tags for each vehicle, so that one can tell from which state the car hails, be it coming on, going, and that is an improvement.

But the ceaseless rotation of black and yellow between the numerals and the background grows more monotonous to those of us, who in summertime especially, take note of auto tags as a sort of check on the tourist industry. Once, we believe, during Governor Scott's administration we had a beautiful red and white license plate, but next time it switched right back to the old colors.

We hope that gay new license tag colors will show up sometime, both for the sake of change and for its esthetic value.

**Lame Duck Sessions  
Should Be Relegated**

The so-called lame duck session of Congress, which likely came about in the day when newly-elected representatives had to have a few weeks' time in which to reach Washington, appear to us to have served their day of usefulness.

It used to be that a new administration took over the fourth of March. That was changed to January 20th in the Roosevelt administration, as to the Presidency.

The spectacle of Senators and Representatives carrying on the business of the Government, when many of them have even been repudiated by the voters, isn't a happy one. A case in point is the recent investigation of alleged election frauds in the ninth district. The thing had to be rushed through by January 3, and a report made before the committee died. A minority member of the committee who had nothing to do with the drafting of the report, is the new chairman.

In this day when a man can reach Washington from any section of the nation in a matter of a few hours, newly-elected representatives should be able to take over quickly and assume the responsibilities to which they were elected.

**The Gate Of The Year**

(New York Times)

January was named for Janus, the two-faced deity who could look in both directions. He was a god of gates and beginnings, and the choice of Janus to symbolize the first month after the Winter solstice was neither whim nor accident. This is a time when man, since the ancient days, has looked back as well as forward and drawn a kind of tally line and made his summations. Man, being the creature he is, needs comparisons and summaries. He needs this figurative gate of the year.

This season in our hemisphere, of course, is the time of fundamentals. The trees, the hills, the river valleys, are stripped to their essential selves, revealed in their stark reality. The softness of Summer, with its leaf and shade and benevolent growth, is gone. Even the mildness of a friendly sun and its consequent weather are largely absent. With the world around him stripped to essentials, it is perhaps easier for man to face his own essential self and make an honest summary.

But fundamental to any such thinking is the plain, stark fact of continuity, of a future rooted firmly in the past. No day stands alone, nor any season. There is no consequence without some reason behind it, any more than there is sunset without sunrise. The sequence is immutable, planting, and growth, and harvest, night after day, Spring after Winter. So no summary can be complete, no day more than a marker on the endless cord of time.

A new year, which is but a continuation of yesterday and all the yesterdays, with change the only certainty. And change, if we are wise, means growth; and growth should bring understanding.



**Stretch's Sketches**  
by  
"STRETCH" ROLLINS

**Grain of Salt, Anyone?**

Confidence is the keynote for 1955. For the grocer, the baker, the butcher, and the candlestick maker, for the wholesaler, the retailer, the farmer, the builder, and the automobile maker, a good year is predicted. Even the consumer will have it pretty good, the forecasters insist, so as not to leave anybody out.

"Business Thumps Chest, Swaggers Into 1955," trumpets a headline. "Business will wake up, and certainly the direction until mid-1955 will be upward," staunchly maintains Roger Babson, world famed statistician. And so it goes, as a tidal wave of unprecedented optimism engulfs the land.

And this time, the prognosticating is not left to the economists, as in former years. Everybody's getting into the act. Some of the crystal ball gazers, not content with one mealy year, are getting carried away with the game, and even predicting to what heights the average income will soar by 1960.

Confidence, too, has been called the keynote of success, and a lack of it can sometimes spell failure. You probably know the story (told during the last depression) of the man who had a thriving hot dog stand in a busy location, and was doing fine until his son came home from college and told him there was a big depression on. Thinking his educated son should know, the old man took down his highway sign and sold it, stopped all his promotion and advertising, cut down his meat and roll orders, and prepared to try to weather the hard times. As a result, his business dropped off to nearly zero. So the next time Junior came home for a visit, his father told him, "You were right, son, we certainly are in the middle of a great depression!"

There's another story of a man who became lost while hunting in strange territory. He came to a river which was frozen over, and although he didn't know how solid the ice was, he decided to cross it. He got down on hands and knees so as to distribute his weight as much as possible, and began a cautious advance, fearful of breaking through the ice at any moment.

Halfway across, he heard a commotion behind him. Turning, he saw two large draft horses plodding over the ice pulling a wagon loaded with heavy logs. And sitting atop the load, his face lifted skyward, was an old colored man, singing, "How Firm a Foundation!"

Yessir, confidence, as the man who works crossword puzzles with a fountain pen remarked, is a wonderful thing.

**Our Early Files**

**Thirty-Nine Years Ago**  
January 6, 1916.

Jesse F. Robbins is off for a few days visit to his mother in Packard, Ky.

Another baby boy has taken up his abode at the home of Register of Deeds W. R. Gragg.

The dry, windy weather since the hard rains has greatly improved the conditions of our roads, and an occasional machine may now be seen on the streets.

Mr. Walter Johnson of Ashe county, Misses Pansy Kincaid and Annie Sherwood, and Mr. Larny Bingham, graduates of the A. T. S. of the class of 1915, have again entered the institution for the purpose of taking post-graduate courses.

The Christmas holidays in Boone passed quietly, and the best of order prevailed. On Christmas eve a community Christmas tree was given in the courthouse, which was a great success, much enjoyed, and every little child and aged person in the community was remembered.

**Fifteen Years Ago**  
January 4, 1940.

Miss Annelle Beach returned to Philadelphia Saturday, to resume her work at the Franklin School of Art and Science, after spending the holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. M. W. Beach.

Rev. J. C. Canipe returned the last of the week from a hunting trip in Person county. The minister brought back with him two fine wild turkeys, the largest weighing twelve pounds net.

J. Decab Coffey, aged resident of the Foscoe neighborhood, died Saturday morning after a short illness. He was 77 years old.

Funeral services were conducted from the Advent Church at Foscoe Sunday afternoon for James A. Aldridge, aged 88, who died at his home there Saturday, following an illness which began Christmas day.

**They Say . . .**

DR. JULIAN P. PRICE, pediatrician: "The physical and mental health of our people is relatively good, but there is evidence of spiritual disease."

DR. RICHARD E. LENTZ, administrative director of the family life department of the National Council of Churches: "Psychiatry now recognizes that religion is the motivation even for psychotherapy."

MEDICAL REPORT, submitted to American Medical Association convention: "You have a good chance of living to be 100—if you first hurdle a curious invisible barrier at ages 60 to 75."

RONALD COLMAN, stage, TV and screen actor: "Blanket indorsements have a way of falling off during cold nights."

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER, President: "Any man that has been married as long as I have doesn't underrate the persuasive powers of a lady."

DR. HERBERT E. STOTTS, religious educator: "The rural community is the heartbeat of democracy and will continue to be."

CHARLES E. POTTER, U. S. Senator from Michigan: "Of the 1,800,000 miles of hard-surfaced roads in this country (exclusive of streets), only half is suitable to support modern, high-speed traffic."

THE OSKALOOSA (Iowa) TRIBUNE: "Perhaps if we could forget our troubles as easily as our blessings we would live better."

NEW ENGLAND EPITAPH: "Here lies an atheist. All dressed up and no place to go."

**King Street**

(Continued from page one)  
intently at the New Englander, opined: "You might consider Danner's siding!"

**GIFT FOR MR. PARKER**

Rev. J. K. Parker, Jr., pastor of the Presbyterian Church received a grand gift this Christmas, a brand new automobile—bought and paid for by members of his congregation, and the minister's smile is broader than common as he motors about the town behind the wheel of the shiny bright vehicle. It's a high tribute to Rev. Mr. Parker that the members of his congregation so handsomely remembered him at Christmas time. . . . And it's likewise a tribute to the parishioners—in that they know a good man when they see him, and fully appreciate his splendid ministry here.

**Farmers Asked**

(continued from page one)  
needs of an ever increasing population, making possible a more abundant living for more people.

The initial sign up period is now in progress and will close January 25. Call at the ASC office and request those practices needed on your farm.

Berra is voted most valuable in American League.

**Paul Said  
To Mr. Ed:**



PAUL

Our 1955 pledge to the people of Watauga county is that every policy will be written as if a loss would occur.

1. Policies placed in strong non-assessment insurance companies.
2. Careful appraisal of property to give the assured adequate protection.
3. Secure lowest rates to comply with North Carolina Rating Bureau of Raleigh, N. C.
4. Free adjustment service on all losses for policies written by our Agency.
5. Estimates on insurance cost and appraisals are free without obligation to our policy holders are anyone interested in securing their information.
6. To trade at home and help promote all worthwhile projects for a better Watauga county.

**WATAUGA INSURANCE AGENCY**

**REMEMBER -  
Rulane Gas  
Service Is  
ECONOMICAL!**

**RULANE**

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GAS SERVICE  
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TIME TO ACT**



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**COE INSURANCE AGENCY**  
Boone, N. C.

**L. F. Ragan, 85,  
Succumbs Friday**

Lewis Franklin Ragan, 85, of Boone, Route 2, died December 31 at Watauga Hospital, where he had been a patient for the past six weeks.

Funeral services were held at 2 p. m. Sunday, January 2, at the Hopewell Methodist Church, conducted by the Rev. Mr. Lockridge and the Rev. A. E. Moretz. Burial was in the Hopewell cemetery. He is survived by five sons, John, Princeton, W. Va., James,

also of W. Va., Joe and David, both of Boone, and Kenneth, Cleveland, Ohio; five daughters, Mrs. Grace May, Jefferson, Mrs. Bynum Norris, Mrs. Arkie Bryan, and Mrs. Margaret Gross, all of Boone, Mrs. Dee Gragg, Lenoir; and two brothers, Jim and Bud Ragan, both of Boone.

**NAME CHANGED**

Wichita Falls, Tex.—Not satisfied with his name—Victor Edward Kuhl—Kuhl, a 23-year-old airman at Sheppard Air Force Base, had his name legally changed to: Vy-ta-uta Edvaroas Kulikauskas.

**POOR MAN**  
She—in India, when a man dies, they bury his widow with him. That is cruel.  
He—Yes, poor man!

**GOT COLD MISERIES?**  
Get Quick Relief...  
B-Q-R quickly relieves the chilly, aching, feverish feeling... eases headache, nervousness and muscular aches due to cold... relieves flu-like symptoms. A pleasant liquid ideal for all the family. Get B-Q-R. Be fast and give your money back if not delighted.  
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See me for remarkably **LOW RATES ON AUTO INSURANCE** With State Farm Mutual!  
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**JANUARY SALE**

**1/4 off** **1/3 off** **1/2 off**

ONE LOT OF DRESSES  
ONE LOT OF SHOES  
HATS  
SLIPS  
TOYS

**ALL 1/2 PRICE!**

**THE CHILDREN'S SHOP**  
E. MAIN ST. BOONE, N. C.

**JUST TWO WORDS COMPLETE THIS PICTURE...**



1955 Super "55" Holiday Coupé. A General Motors Value.

**"TRY IT!"**

Take a long look . . . and you'll long for more than a look! Well, don't be satisfied with wishing . . . because we have a "Rocket" 202 Oldsmobile waiting for you right now! So come in and take the wheel. Feel the touch of your toe translated into instant action. See how easy every driving moment can be. How hills seem to flatten as the "Rocket" wings you along. And feel how rough roads iron out in this most comfortable of all Oldsmobiles. Even if you've driven a past "Rocket", you're missing something until you try this flashing all-new "Rocket" 202! You're welcome to test it . . . soon. Then you'll want to make this your year to go ahead with Oldsmobile!

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