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BOONE, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1961

Business Improves

Reports from over the State indicate that some businesses in North Carolina are doing 25 per cent better for the month of December than they did a year ago, while November ran as well or better over the same month in 1960.

These reports indicate that business in Carolina over the entire year was about 10 per cent ahead of that for 1960.

And if the size of the crowds in Boone in the last days before Christmas was any indication, the retail trade in this community must have broken previous records.

Never do we recall having seen more people or more congestion or heavier traffic in the stores of the business district as the last minute shoppers got down to the business of doing their belated buying. The finding of a parking space in the retail district was a forlorn hope during the peak of the trading season.

And it is a happy thing to note the growing popularity of Boone as a shop-

ping center for the people of such a wide area. The streets were decorated and lighted, night hours were observed by many stores, and the merchants promoted their businesses more fully than in many years. This added to the fact that never have the stocks of merchandise been so comprehensive, brought the people to the community in great numbers.

And Boone's stores will continue to grow, and the fame of the Street as a shopping district will keep on widening, bringing more and more people here to do their shopping, not only during the holidays but during every week of the year. With the marked growth of the college and the continued prosperity of the farming area roundabout, the town's growth will continue. Our merchants will keep pace. The bigger the community the wider its trade area, and we shall continue to welcome new faces to the crowds in the business community.

Salt Is Safety Help

Slippery highways account for a good many of the automobile accidents on our streets and highways, but salt will help many motorists come through the winter safely.

The use of common salt for de-icing pavement has increased more than two and a half times to an average of two million tons a year since 1958, according to the Salt Institute of Chicago.

Cities and towns have followed the lead of highway departments and turnpike officials by switching to straight salt to provide ice-free roads and streets with speed and economy, spreading the salt from one-man trucks instead of using larger crews, slower methods and less effective materials.

Thirty-eight states, it is pointed out, and all major turnpikes and toll roads in the snow belt use salt in their winter maintenance. As storms arrive, salt usually is spread at the rate of 500 pounds a mile of two-lane roadway. A one-man,

four-ton truck can work up to 16 miles in a single pass without reloading.

In reporting the increased use of salt for de-icing, the institute cites the experience in New York City, where during a six-year period from 1930 to 1936 before salt was used in ice and snow removal, there was a yearly toll of 21 deaths and 1,635 personal injuries attributable to skidding accidents. In a ten-year period after the city employed salt, the average annual toll from skidding dropped to nine deaths and 736 personal injuries.

And doubtless, despite the complaints of some motorists that underparts of automobiles get rust damage from the sloshing of salty slush, it may be expected that salt will be relied on more and more. Increased traffic and roads engineered for higher speeds bring demands for greater safety than ever before. Salt seems to do the job quicker and better than other de-icers.

Bad Weather In West

Two months of rough winter weather is in store for those who live in the western part of the country, since the United States Weather Bureau comes forth with the information that January and February will be colder with more snow than in the winter of 1960 in the western half of the nation.

The eastern half, on the other hand, may expect somewhat warmer temperatures than normal.

The long range forecasts cannot be broken down into predictions for a particular state or city, it is pointed out, but it is said that snowfall and rain will be heavier than normal along the Pacific Coast and from mid-continent to the Great Lakes region. East of the Appalachian mountains and south of Pennsylvania, precipitation is expected to be less than normal.

The forecasts give out this warning to those who live in the eastern half of the country: The weather may be

warmer than usual during the next two months, but there will be "periods of heavy snow and bitter cold."

Which to those of us who follow the Ramon calendar forecasts for the most part, doesn't sound too unfavorable. As a matter of fact if we didn't catch a few fairly heavy snows along with a reasonable amount of extremely low temperatures, we would be inclined to the belief that something had passed out of its usual orbit.

But now, that winter sports are to become part and parcel of life in these hills, maybe we won't take such a grim look at the prospects for cold and snowy weather, as we did when there was no economic impact to cold other than it required more wood and coal. Actually it would appear that cold weather may soon be vying with the pleasant zephyrs of summertime, as a tourist attraction in this part of the country.

Arms And The Boy

(The Wall Street Journal)

As the affairs of men each year grow more complex, so do the affairs of children. Let him who doubts this visit a modern toy counter.

There was a time when pre-Christmas displays offered a rather limited selection of playthings: Bicycles, electric trains, cowboy outfits and so on. But today these traditional articles have been upstaged by toys which dramatically reflect the kind of world we live in.

Flying models of airplanes, which in our day took weeks to assemble, now come ready-to-fly and armed with working rockets on each wing. Sets of electric trains, once offering only passenger or simple freight equipment, now feature flatcars bearing missiles that fire and

submarines that can be detached for bathroom patrol. The old six-shooter has given way to ray guns and atomic cannons, and those little wooden soldiers are now armed with tactical nuclear weapons.

These innovations may certainly engender parental misgivings about the example the adult world is setting for the younger generation. Nor is it entirely reassuring to remember that it was always thus.

But there is one admittedly small consolation. If in the near future the seismographs detect an ominous explosion in the Arctic, it may just be that a gift for Junior has fallen out of Santa's sled.

When The Bough Breaks—



From Early Democrat Files

Sixty Years Ago

December 19, 1901

Candies, nuts, raisins, etc. at W. H. McGhees.

School at Watauga Academy will adjourn on Friday for the holidays.

Mercury hovered down uncomfortably near zero on Sunday and Monday nights.

J. B. Hagaman left Monday for the State of Washington.

Patent desks have been ordered for another room in Watauga Academy and will be put in position by the first of the year.

Miss Vic Farthing of Hattie visited friends and relatives last week and gave our office a much appreciated call on her return Friday.

A big force of hands was put to work on the Boone and Blowing Rock turnpike Monday morning and we are told that travel has been resumed over it.

The latest reports from Mrs. Maggie Boyden of Lenoir are that she is getting along as well as could be expected and her physicians are hopeful for her recovery.

From the Lenoir papers we learn that mumps is no respecter of persons in that town, as Editor Martin and Alfred W. Dula are both afflicted with the malady.

From the Hickory Democrat we learn that Z. B. Buchanan of Blowing Rock has bought the Kilian stock of goods in Hickory and will open business there about January 1.

The railroad bridge at Butler, Tenn. was washed away again last

Saturday night and we are told that the company's work in Johnson County will have to suspend until the bridge can be rebuilt, owing to a dirt of coal.

Some days since Mr. Pat Coffey of Collettsville, was fishing with dynamite when a joint exploded in his hand, tearing that member almost into shreds and inflicting serious injuries on other parts of his body. It seems that people would eventually learn that such combustibles are extremely dangerous.

Thirty-Nine Years Ago

December 21, 1922

Mr. Thomas S. Watson, merchant at Brownwood, paid out on Monday and Tuesday of this week nearly \$2,000 in cash for turkeys which he is shipping to the northern markets. One farmer sold him 72 head, which at 36 cents per pound, brought him the sum of \$312.00. It is that so much of our valuable products are being shipped out of the state where every pound of it is needed and would bring a fancy price at any of our city markets.

We have been reliably informed that in the early spring Boone will have an ice plant, capable of taking care of all the local needs. We suppose Blowing Rock will be greatly benefitted by this new enterprise as they can get their ice on short notice and with a shorter haul over a better road. A modern coal storage plant will be operated in connection with the ice plant. These things make another valuable addition to our town.

Mrs. Millard Shores, residing in the Middle Fork section of the county, was operated on for appendicitis at the Watauga Hospital in Boone Monday, Doctors Perry, Anders and Bingham doing the work. The operation was a success and the patient is doing nicely.

On December 5, Allan A. Harmon, a former resident of Watauga County, died at the home of his son, Lionel Harmon, in Richmond, Ind., where he had gone for medical aid.

The following young people of the town, who are taking college courses, are at home for the holidays: Miss Anna Blair Anders, Trinity; Misses Ruth Dotson and Florence Keller, Meredith; Miss Ruth Rankin, Winthrop; Miss Annie Dougherty, Carson and Newman; and Messrs James Council and Fred Hodges from the University of North Carolina.

We received yesterday a copy of the Johnson County News, Mountain City, Tenn., published under date of December 5, which had been trying for twelve long days to get 23 miles from the shop where it was printed. We want Brother Barry's paper and are entitled to it and why it can't get here is an unsolved problem.

Fifteen Years Ago

December 26, 1946

Dr. W. G. Bond, pastor of the Erlanger Baptist Church, Erlanger, Ky., has been called to the pastorate of the Boone Baptist Church and will be in charge of a special service to be held Wednesday evening, January 1, at 7 o'clock in the church auditorium, following which an informal reception will be held.

John Andrew Tester, 33, resident of the Beech Creek neighborhood, died at Grace Hospital, Banner Elk, Thursday from injuries received in an automobile accident which occurred 24 hours prior to his death. Information is that the automobile driven by Mr. Tester left the road between Beech Creek and Whaley postoffice and that Mr. Tester died of head and chest injuries received in the accident. One of his brothers, a passenger in the car at the time, is said to have been seriously injured and is a patient at Banner Elk Hospital.

Eugene Talmadge, one of Georgia's most colorful figures, died December 21, scarcely three weeks before he would have been inaugurated for a fourth term as Governor.

Taking for his subject "The Crowned Life," Dr. Luther Little of Charlotte, delivered the graduating address at the winter commencement exercise held at Appalachian State Teachers College Wednesday evening.

The Edmisten Furniture Company celebrates its second anniversary with the formal opening of its elegant new building on the street just opposite the courthouse Saturday, December 28, and details of the opening are carried on page eight of this newspaper.

Mr. H. C. Ingram of Colbert, Washington, has been spending a few days with friends in Watauga County, before proceeding to his old home in Iredeed County for a visit. Mr. Ingram left this section for the northwest 45 years ago, having taught for three years in the public schools of Watauga County.

Sales of tobacco on the Boone Burley market reached the total of 3,077,858 pounds at the close of the auctions Friday.

KING STREET

By ROB RIVERS

Next Week . . . Another Christmas

Those who have smacked their lips through the piles of holiday food, and laughed their way through the mounds of wrappings, and pleasantly perused a few hundred Christmas cards from good and thoughtful friends, and then gone back to work to pick up the loose ends left when the place was closed Saturday, might or might not envy the Outer Bankers of North Carolina who celebrate Christmas again next week.

Pink Baldwin, who used to prop on his crooked cane and tell us of being a sizable lad when the apple tree was blooming in the Garden of Eden, dated everything from "old Christmas" . . . We didn't share Pink's belief that he was uncommon old, but he did pinpoint an old custom. . . The old Christmas observance, it would appear, though, is beginning to die, albeit slowly. . . As a matter of fact since transportation to the mainland has been improved, the Outer Banks neighborhoods also observe Christmas on December 25th.

For hundreds of years the tiny villages on Hatteras have observed old Christmas. . . Why, no one seems to know, but it is contended by some that the early settlers on the wind-swept banks decided on observing the Epiphany Eve date on the Julian calendar.

Anyway Santa Claus usually visits Outer Banks children on December 25, allowing a few days respite before the old Christmas celebrants gather on January 5 for merry-making, oyster roasting and a general round of gay panying. . . Then Old Buck, legendary Bull of the Buxton Woods, shows up to frighten the naughty children.

And strangely enough, old Christmas coincides with the traditional departure of thousands of snow geese from their wintering grounds at Pea Island Refuge for their northern homes in Canada, Newfoundland and Greenland. . . Residents say in the olden times the geese always left January 5. . . The date has been irregular, they say, in recent years, indicating perhaps that the geese may also be a smidgin frustrated, along with the folks who are trying to make the best of two Christmases a little more than a week apart.

* * * *

The Snow . . . Popularity Dims

One of the penalties of modern life, says the New York Times, is the loss of appreciation of snow. . . That is evident in this community, when snow came for Christmas, bringing considerable inconvenience and fetching little merriment along with its swirling beauty. . . The White Christmas song is still popular, but many who sing it hope it's white some place else. . . Anyway the Times continues:

"The countryman realizes that snow nourishes and protects his fields and pastures and even helps to seal and insulate his house and barns against the cruellest bite of Winter. The youngster with a sled and the grownup with a pair of skis know the particular satisfaction of a snowclad slope. But in the city and the suburb, snow has become a cold and slushy nuisance when it isn't a costly problem. To travelers everywhere snow is a blinding, slippery hazard to foot and wheel and wing.

"Yet, the snowflake itself is a thing of fragile, evanescent beauty. It is a delicate water crystal, one of the most transient of all natural water forms, a wisp of mist that has briefly acquired tangible shape. A snowflake can transform a woodland into a place of magic, a meadow into a shimmering wonderland. A snowflake is the frozen grace of the wind, perfection of line and curve and form. Snow can temporarily restore the lost innocence to a scarred and naughty world of disillusionment and foily.

"We know these things. We can believe in them a little while at the beginning of any winter. Then our comfort and our convenience are threatened, and we forget. We, and the snow itself, become victims of our own way of life. Snow becomes a problem, another phase of nature that man must be at war with to maintain his own elaborate complexities of living."

Mountain men, just the same, have come to associate Christmas and snow, like sunshine and warmth, ham and eggs or frost and punkins. . . And the makers of the Christmas cards, with the snowy vistas, the red barns, and the unbroken mounds half-burying country homes, leaving only the creek to trace a jagged line across the unbroken sea of white, have helped to preserve a sense of greater merriment and well-being when it's a snowin' at Christmas.

Uncle Pinkney

(MacKnight Syndicate)

HIS PALAVERIN'S

DEAR MISTER EDITOR:

Zeke Grubb's preacher come by the country store Saturday night, told the fellers he was trying to git his nerves back in shape from a pritty hard week.

He reported that things got started on the wrong foot last Sunday morning when he had a few wrds to say about drinking and gambling. He got a unsigned letter Monday advising him that drinking and gambling was a disease and a matter fer the medical profession. It was caused, the letter claimed, by somepun that happened to a feller in his youth, like weaning him too young.

The good Parson said he recollected when he was a boy his Uncle Cyrus come home drunk ever Saturday night and his old lady used the rolling pin on him. Now, allowed the Parson, she'd probably give him a shot of penicillin. He said it looks like disease has took over all the sins and it might be better fer him just to pass out a few pills at Sunday School and go on home.

But the hard part of the week, he told the fellers, come Friday night when the Fund Raising Committee met to report on the annual canvas. After counting up the pledges it was voted that

the church budget was in a state of emergency and it might be necessary to name a Emergency Committee to work on the problem.

One feller, fer instant, told Rufe Zinder he didn't believe in making no pledge. He said things was so uncertain these days that he didn't sign nothing in no shape or form. Rufe told the Committee he happened to know this feller was buying his car, his motor boat and color TV set on the installment plan. Rufe couldn't figger out how he was gitting all them things without signing somepun.

Another member told Heskiah Adams that he didn't use no envelopes, just dropped a big handful of money loose in the plate. He allowed as how the congregation would be surprised at how much he dropped in the plate loose ever Sunday. The Parson said he took all the loose offering one Sunday and divided it among the members that says they give loose and it come to seven cents apiece. He said the major problem was them putting-it-in loose members.

Yours truly,
UNCLE PINK