

ITALY . . . rich in work. I have just got back from a rapid but rather comprehensive tour of Italy. By railroad, automobile and airplane I covered nearly that entire peninsula, and saw for myself the results of ten years of Mussolini.

Italy today is the least depressed nation in the world. Everybody is at work; out of a population of 42,000,000, I was told, there are less than a million unemployed, including the aged and invalids. The whole nation is thoroughly organized and a new spirit of national pride and co-operation has been developed.

The Italian people give every evidence of being the happiest people anywhere in the world today. Measured in dollars, they don't handle much money, but measured in terms of food, clothing and comfort, their workers are better off, on the whole, than those of any other nation.

HOUSING . . . in Italian cities. One of the biggest things the Italian government has done is to improve housing conditions for workers in the cities. In Milan, which is the New York of Italy, the industrial and financial center and the largest city, I saw literally thousands of new apartment houses, built by private capital with government aid, modern and sanitary in every respect.

FARMING . . . every acre counts. One reason why Italy has suffered less from the depression than other nations is that 55 per cent. of its population lives on the land. There is hardly a square inch of land in Italy that is not under cultivation. Even the mountain sides of the Apennines and the Maritime Alps are terraced, in tiny tracts, as high as vegetation will grow.

WHEAT . . . and tobacco. Italy has set out to grow all of its own wheat, but the durum variety used for making macaroni, and soft wheat, for bread. Ten years ago Italy was importing five-sixths of its wheat. Today it is growing five-sixths of its own wheat. This is a result of what Mussolini has dramatically named the "Battaglia del Grano" or the Battle of Grain.

DISCIPLINE . . . honest dealings. All Italy is regimented. Every business, industry and occupation is organized. The Italian Parliament is composed of members elected by 400 trade, industrial or agricultural or agricultural groups; they do not represent districts, they represent occupations.

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MANY MARRIAGE LICENSES ISSUED DURING THE YEAR

Dr. Julius I. Foust Secures License from Register of Deeds, white Nuptial Papers for Anne Cannon Reynolds Are Issued Here. Niece of Mrs. Cone Among Names Appearing on Record. Total of 57 Couples.

There were fifty-seven marriage licenses issued from the office of Register of Deeds Helen Underdown during the year 1932, a check of the records indicate. Among those most widely known whose names appear on the records are Dr. Julius I. Foust of Greensboro, head of N. C. C. W., Anne Cannon Reynolds of Concord, first wife of the late Smith Reynolds, heir to the tobacco millions, and Dene Lindsay of Baltimore, niece of Mrs. Moses H. Cone. The complete list of those securing licenses is published below:

January 2—T. T. Triplett of Watauga, and Angelina Bradshaw of Caldwell.
January 5—Webster Felts of Wilkes, and Nora Burke of Wilkes.
February 4—Fred White of Caldwell, and Mary Walker of Caldwell.
February 6—Frank Dellinger of Watauga, and Stella Dotson of Watauga.

February 19—Clyde Hodges of Watauga, and Vera Idol of Watauga.
February 22—Roby Brown of Watauga, and Rose Friesland, of Ashe; Arnie Hicks of Watauga, and Pearl Harmon of Watauga.

February 25—George Norris of Watauga, and Myrtle Grogan, Watauga.
March 2—Charles Thompson, Bartlett, W. Va., and Roberta Stevenson Bartlett, W. Va.

March 11—Conley McElvey, Knoxville, Tenn., and Helen Barber, Knoxville, Tenn.; Gleyse Moresz of Ashe, and Elizabeth Johnson of Watauga.

March 16—Beech Keller, of Watauga, and Blanche Cole of Watauga.
March 14—Charles Cottrell of Caldwell, and Billie Winkler of Watauga.
March 21—Luther Hicks of Watauga, and Epsie Harman, Watauga.

March 22—Kermit Cornett of Watauga, and Minnie Dowell, Watauga.
April 2—Ray P. Reynolds, Princeton, W. Va., and Elizabeth Price, of Princeton, W. Va.

April 10—Stuart Oxentire of Watauga, and Cattie Pitts of Watauga.
April 11—Joseph Taylor of Lenoir, and Edna Coffey of Lenoir.

April 11—Clarence Greene of Watauga, and Alma Sheppard of Wilkes.
April 22—F. Brandon Smith, Charlotte, and Anne Cannon Reynolds of Concord.

May 26—Wade Brown of Ashe, and Georgia Norman of Avery.
June 22—Roscoe Cook of Watauga, and Pearl Randall of Watauga.

June 25—Captain Hicks of Watauga, and Viola Stines of Watauga.
June 26—Floyd Hicks of Watauga, and Doris Harmon of Watauga.

June 12—John H. Johnson of Gage, and Mary E. Rowan of Army, Miss.

July 2—Allan Roos, New York, and Dene Lindsay, Baltimore.
July 10—Herbert L. MacCauley of Johnson City, Tenn., and Hazel Grace Love, Watauga.

July 28—James Arrant of Watauga, and Margaret Hix of Watauga.
July 30—Joe Greer of Watauga and Teeler Parson of Ashe.

August 13—Herbert Church of Watauga and Lula Coffey of Watauga; Rommer Howell of Ashe, and Agnes Moresz of Watauga; David Minton of Watauga, and Bernice Danner of Watauga; Luther Wood of Wilkes, and Ruby Felts of Wilkes.

August 22—Dr. Julius I. Foust of Greensboro, and Clara McNeil, of Greensboro; Walter T. Jones of Lenoir, and Gertrude Smythe of Mountain City, Tenn.; Conrad Storie of Caldwell, and Ida Greer of Caldwell.

August 24—William Coffey of Watauga, and Elma Gragg of Watauga.
August 30—Floyd T. Cox, of Benham, Ky., and Eula Hurd, of East Stone Gap, Va.

September 8—Fred W. Fuhrmeister of Desloge, Mo., and Louise Lehning of Nashville, Tenn.
September 10—Conley Trivette of Watauga, and Ruth Glenn of Watauga; Raymond Eller of Watauga, and Rachel Wilson of Watauga.

September 18—Robert G. Wills of Shouns, Tenn., and Belle Hawkins, of Mountain City, Tenn.
September 24—Russell Hayes of Wilkes, and Florence Revils of Wilkes.

October 1—Laurence Eolic of Watauga, and Mary Wooten of Watauga.
October 6—Blair Greene of Watauga, and Mae Greene of Watauga.

October 14—Don Honeycutt of Watauga, and Artie Aldridge of Watauga.
October 23—B. Arney Foster of Watauga, and Zora Champion, Shelby, N. C.

October 28—John L. Davis of Watauga, and Arnie Johnson of Watauga.
October 31—Stanley Hicks of Watauga, and Virgie Pressnell of Watauga.

November 18—Henry Puckett of Plasterco, Va., and Kate Rickman of Plasterco, Va.
November 21—Francis McGuire of Watauga, and Della Isaacs of Watauga.

November 24—C. G. Almond of Abingdon, Va., and Grace Morris, Bristol, Va.; C. B. Blackwelder, Stanley County, and Hartsett Lee Little of Stanley County.

November 30—Don Lookbill of Watauga and Edna Johnson of Watauga.
December 3—Russell Bentley, Watauga, and Wynona Hollers, Watauga.
December 21—Robert Teaster of Watauga, and Alma Potts, Watauga.

December 23—Chancie Holloway, Butler, Tenn., and Annie Hicks, of Watauga.

President Maker



Louis McHenry Howe, secretary and political adviser to President-elect Roosevelt, now dons the title of "President Maker," as it was his work which was all-powerful in bringing the nomination and election to Mr. Roosevelt. . . . Howe, a former newspaper man, will have a room in the White House offices in March.

MRS. I. S. GREENE FUNERAL TODAY

Well-known Resident of Stony Fork Community Victim of Complication of Diseases. Services by Pastor. Six Immediate Survivors.

Mrs. I. S. Greene, 61 years old, member of one of the most prominent families of the Stony Fork section, passed away at her home Monday evening after an illness which had made her an invalid for the past two years. Funeral services were conducted Wednesday morning at 11 o'clock from Stony Fork by the pastor, Rev. Roe Payne, who was assisted by the Revs. Ed. Hodges and Levi Greene. Interment was at the Stony Fork cemetery.

Surviving are the husband and five children: Walter at Boone, Wade of Elizabethton, Worth and Winifred of Stony Fork, Mrs. Glenn, Welch of Stony Fork, three brothers and a sister, Richard Wagner of Stony Fork, William Wagner of Boone, R. F. D., McD. Wagner of Greenwood, Mrs. Byrd McNeil, of Rich Mountain.

Mrs. Greene was a daughter of the late Blair Wagner and was born and reared in the Stony Fork community. She was a member of the Stony Fork Church, and was well known in the county.

146 ARE KILLED IN HOLIDAY MISHAPS

Autos, Trains, Firearms, Poison Liquor, Drownings and Mine Disasters Take Toll. Southeast Leads in Fatalities. Death was the unwelcome bystander at the nation's Christmas celebration. A survey Monday indicated that 146 persons may have been killed over the week-end.

Heading tragedies was the Mowqua (Ill.) mine disaster. Fifty-four men were trapped there and officials expressed doubt that any would be brought out alive. Already several bodies have been recovered. Automobiles, trains, firearms, and drownings accounted for the mounting death list.

A tabulation by sections of the nation showed: Six met death in New England, 16 in the east, 28 in the southeast, 21 in the midwest, seven in the west and southwest, 11 in the far west and 3 in the south. The tabulation does not include the 54 feared lost in the Illinois mine explosion.

Included in the deaths were six in New York attributed by officials to poison liquor. Mr. Elaine Trivett, of Boone, is a patient in a Morganton hospital where he was taken early Saturday morning, after having been found beside his wrecked car near that city in an unconscious condition. Young Trivett was en route to Asheville Friday night, and believes he must have dozed for an instant. The car left the highway, struck a tree, and cast its driver onto the ground. Although he was unconscious for a time, he is not believed to have been critically injured. A badly broken nose, a severe cut in the back of the head and minor abrasions constitute the apparent injuries.

INJURED IN FALL. H. F. Kincaid, of Valdese, driver of a Waldensian Bakery truck, suffered a broken arm Tuesday afternoon when he slipped and fell at the Villas Service Station, west of Boone. He came to Boone, where Dr. Hagaman set the fractured member and this (Wednesday) morning is back on his route, accompanied by an extra driver.

HOLIDAY TRADE IS REPORTED LIVELY

Merchants of Boone, when questioned the first of the week as to the amount of their Christmas trade, were practically unanimous in the report that holiday sales were as large, or in some instances larger, than a year ago. The amount of money changing hands of course was smaller, but the volume of business was described in most places as "thoroughly satisfactory, and better than was expected. The cold weather which preceded Christmas by a few days helped a great deal in the disposal of seasonal merchandise.

MRS. IRA CRITCHER SUCCUMBS AFTER A LENGTHY ILLNESS

Well Known Resident of Bamboo Section Passes Friday. Funeral Sunday, 11 for Several Weeks. Member of Prominent Family and Native Wataugan. Husband and Several Sisters Among Survivors.

Mrs. Ira Critcher, 48 years old, died at her home in the Bamboo section last Friday after an illness which had been considered critical for several weeks. Funeral services were conducted from the Mount Vernon Baptist Church Saturday by Rev. W. C. Payne and interment was in the Critcher cemetery.

Surviving are the husband, seven sisters and a brother: Mesdames Roscoe Little, Boone; John Downes, of Douglas, Wyo.; B. L. Stone, Dalton, Ga.; Joe Pearson, Moravian, Pa.; Jim Ray, Boone; Roy Johnson, Breward; Miss Annie Lou Kerley and Don Kerley, Blowing Rock, R. F. D. Mrs. Critcher was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Kerley of the Blowing Rock section. She received her education at the old Appalachian Training School, and was well known throughout this community and section. She was a member of the Mount Vernon Baptist Church, a splendid lady, and her friends were numbered by her acquaintances.

W. W. COLLINS DIES AT HOME THURSDAY

Prominent Merchant of Boone's Fork Community Succumbs to Long Illness. Funeral Held Friday. Wife and Three Children Survive.

W. W. Collins, prominent citizen and merchant, died at his home in the Boone's Fork section of the county last Thursday after an illness which had its beginning more than five years ago. A complication of diseases caused his death. He was 66 years old. Funeral services were conducted from the Blue Ridge Advent Christian Church Friday by the pastor, Rev. S. E. Gmigg, who has assisted in the rites by Rev. John Greene of Boone, and Rev. Mr. Ishell of Lenoir. Interment was in the Boone's Fork Cemetery.

The pallbearers were Ed Shoemaker, Raleigh Davis, Worth Oavis, Herbert Estes, O. J. Coffey, Hamp Sims, Carrol Hollifield, Carl Rupert, Murray Coffey, Melvin Calloway, Coy Sims, Sherman Henderson, Henry Henderson, John Gragg, Robert Smith and Alfred Church. Surviving are a widow and three children, Spencer, DeEstie and Staple.

A great host of friends in Watauga and other sections of this state, Georgia and elsewhere were very sad as they received news of Mr. Collins' death. He will be remembered by the older people of the county as an early teacher of both instrumental and vocal music, and made it a profession for many years. Lately he has operated a general store. He was a native of Union County, Georgia, but had lived in Watauga for thirty years. He was well known and had many friends, one of whom described his life as one of "beauty, kindness and Christian service."

Long Illness Fatal to Mrs. Larkin Welborn

Mrs. Larkin Welborn, of Stony Fork, died at her home there Tuesday at 11, after a long illness. She was about 70 years old. Funeral is to be held today and burial will be in Stony Fork Cemetery. Complete details are unavailable. Mrs. Welborn was a native Wataugan and a well known and highly respected lady. She was a consistent member of the Baptist Church and a mainstay in her community. She is survived by six children, her husband having died several years ago.

MRS. RHODA HOLLIFIELD

Funeral services were conducted from the Boone's Fork Baptist church on the 19th for Mrs. Rhoda Hollifield, 75-year-old resident of that community. Rev. W. D. Ashley conducted the services and interment was near the church. Further information could not be obtained. Twenty-seven logs dressing 9,261 pounds of pork have been butchered at the Harnett County home and 21 additional animals are available for slaughter.

"Fugitive" Author



Robert E. Burns, author of the famous story, "I Am a Fugitive from a Chain Gang," who was apprehended in New Jersey and extradition asked for him by Georgia, from which state's chain gang he escaped.

MRS. BRENDALL IS INJURED IN CRASH

Wife of Local Minister Is Patient in Norfolk Hospital. Broken Arm Is Said to Be Her Principal Injury.

Mrs. J. H. Brendall Jr. is a patient in a Norfolk, Va., hospital where she was taken following an automobile accident in which the car she and her husband occupied flipped. Meager information is to the effect that the accident occurred when another auto entered the highway from a side road in the path of the Boone minister's machine. Mrs. Brendall's principal injury, according to the information, was a broken arm, and so far as is known she is showing satisfactory improvement. The couple left Sunday evening for a holiday visit with relatives and friends in Currituck County and in Norfolk.

COVE CREEK SCHOOL TO OPEN MONDAY, JANUARY 2

The Cove Creek High School, which was closed two weeks ago on account of a flu epidemic, will reopen on Monday, January 2, at 9 o'clock. A announcement made yesterday by the principal, Sam E. Horton. Mrs. Horton states that the influenza has practically disappeared, and that very little sickness has been reported in his community for several days. He urges that all students of the school be on hand the first week for study reviews which lead up to examinations opening on January 9.

CONDITION OF CONGRESSMAN BUTLER SLIGHTLY IMPROVED

Congressman R. R. Butler of Oregon, who has been critically ill in a Washington, D. C., hospital for several days, is slightly improved, according to a message received by his sister, Mrs. Jim Rivers, of Boone, Wednesday. Physicians now believe that Mr. Butler has a good chance for recovery. Mrs. Rivers returned from his bedside in the capital city Saturday, where she had been called on Wednesday.

SQUIRE CHARLES TAYLOR SAID TO BE RECOVERING

Mr. Charles Taylor, of Valle Crucis, is reported to be greatly improved from an illness which developed on Christmas day and which was believed to have been a light stroke of paralysis. It is now believed by friends, however, that the venerable gentleman will recover.

AUTO ACCIDENT

Mr. Bud Hefner of the Boone Drug Company was the driver of a car which was crowded from the road by a truck on the mountainside between Banner Elk and Elk Park last Friday. The machine was almost demolished, but Mr. Hefner was practically uninjured.

AGED LADY VERY ILL

Mrs. Sulle Ragan, 88 years old, remains seriously ill at her home on Meat Camp, and her death is expected at any time. She is a sister of the late W. L. Bryan of Boone and the last survivor of the Bryan old family.

CONFEDERATE VETERAN ILL

Mr. Harve Davis, 92 years old, one of the few remaining veterans of the Confederacy, is seriously ill at his home on Boone Route 2. Latest reports are that his condition is unchanged and his recovery seems unlikely.

HOLIDAY CHEER IS PROVIDED FOR DESTITUTE FOLK

Welfare Agencies Supported by Individuals in Work of Seeing that Santa Claus Made Widespread Appearance. Toys, Candles and Goodies Furnished. Made Christmas Merry for All the Less Fortunate.

Despite hard times and distress Christmas proved to be very merry indeed for Wataugans in general, and perhaps never in any recent year have the festivities been enjoyed in as many homes of the destitute. The duly constituted welfare department received the full co-operation of organizations over the county in the work of dispelling gloom for a period over the Yuletide, and there were tons and candy and dolls and goodies for just about all the kiddies. Smith Hagaman, superintendent of welfare work, has issued a more or less detailed statement as to work done for the needy during Christmas, which is published herewith:

Mr. Hagaman's Statement. "Christmas which comes but once a year has come and gone. Many homes, no doubt, did not have the usual good cheer, owing to the pinch of the times, but despite the snows that hovered over so many homes, scores of hearts and lives were gladdened during the holidays.

"We want to acknowledge with deep appreciation the unselfish and really heroic work of the numerous organizations and individuals which made it possible for scores and even hundreds of little children to have some of the joys of this Christmasetide that otherwise could not have been provided.

"The organized relief agency of the county did everything possible to reach every worthy case in every section of the county but, of course, this was a physical impossibility. However, it was possible to reach about fifteen hundred people in this way—fifteen hundred lighter hearts and brighter faces! Reward enough!

"It would be impossible to name all the people who so royally contributed in various ways to make this possible. Mr. R. M. Greene of Boone collected and reconitoned a vast number of toys—made them good and bright as new. These went to scores of homes throughout the county. Many a little child will gratefully remember in years to come this very thoughtful act of Mr. Greene.

"Jim Rivers of the Watauga Democrat notified through that paper a 'good number' of our contributors, and he sent out more than two hundred bags well filled with oranges, apples, nuts, candles and raisins, and lots of dolls and toys. The boys won't soon forget the charitable citizens who contributed to this fund.

"The Boone High School contributed in a large way to the relief of many families in different sections of the county. The College Y. W. C. A. furnished a box of dressed dolls. The Delphian Society and a college class each took a needy family for their part.

"Money was scarce and problems difficult, but never was the spirit finer. "SMITH HAGAMAN, Supt. of Public Welfare."

Young Students Make Remarkable Records

Mr. Edgar Hardin of the Lenoir community was a visitor in town Friday and brought with him his two daughters, Lois, 7, and Ruth, 5, who have been students at the Deep Gap Consolidated School. Lois shows justifiable pride in a report card which she has, showing that she has finished the fourth grade, receiving 'A's' on all studies, while Ruth has finished the second grade with 'A's' rating on everything except mathematics. The two little ladies are to be congratulated upon their splendid accomplishment.

CONGRESS PASSES BEER BILL

Washington.—The House last Wednesday afternoon, by a vote of 230 to 165, passed the bill to legalize the sale of 3.2 per cent. beer (the Weyss and Means Committee bill), equal to 4 per cent. by weight, and, according to most authorities, a very good pre-war beverage, whether or not it is intoxicating "in fact" under ordinary conditions. This is the first "wet victory" since the 18th amendment was adopted. The Senate immediately promised early action, but this will not come up until late this week.

ON DEER HUNT

Messrs. Frank Stubbs and John Greer are enjoying a deer hunt in the game regions of South Carolina this week. They are expected to return to their homes here Wednesday evening.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

A Christmas pageant was held at the Old Mount Pleasant Lutheran Church east of Boone last Saturday night. There was a good attendance, a Christmas tree with treats for the members of the Sunday School, and a general good time was enjoyed.

WOULD FIX FIVE-DAY WEEK IN NEW STATUTE

Washington.—A bill to establish the five-day week and six-hour day in all industries was introduced last week by Senator Black, Alabama, who said he would press for its early consideration.