

WATAUGA BANK IS EXPECTED TO PAY ANOTHER DIVIDEND

Permission Is Asked of State Banking Commissioner to Pass Out Ten Per Cent More in Dividends This Month to Holders of Preferred Certificates. Will Release \$6,000. Allen Speaks at Meeting of Directors.

At a meeting of directors of the Watauga County Bank held on Saturday morning, November 3rd, resolutions were unanimously adopted requesting the Commissioner of Banks for North Carolina and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation to authorize the retirement immediately of another 10 per cent of their preferred stock. If permission is granted, this will mean the distribution of \$20,000 additional to preferred shareholders. The resolutions also included a request to the two bank governing authorities—State and Federal—for the permission to pay a dividend to the preferred shareholders on November 30th. The dividend rate on the preferred stock is 3 per cent per annum, and such dividend payments, if their request is granted, will amount to approximately \$6,000.00.

When the Watauga Bank was admitted to membership in the Federal Deposit Insurance fund on September 21st, and re-opened for unrestricted business, they had \$200,552.61 outstanding in preferred shares. On October 25th, with full approval by the Commissioner of Banks for North Carolina and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, at Washington, they began the distribution of cash retiring 20 per cent of their preferred stock, amounting to \$40,110.52. Practically all of that amount was distributed to shareholders in this immediate community.

Pursuant to the resolutions passed by the directors on Saturday, the 10 per cent preferred stock retirement will mean a further distribution of \$20,055.26, and will result in reducing the amount of preferred stock outstanding to \$140,386.83.

At the directors' meeting, Mr. John G. Allen, special examiner for the State Banking Department, who has been working in this vicinity, requested a hearing as he desired to deliver to the bank a special message from Hon. Gurney P. Hood, Commissioner of Banks.

Message from Hood
"I want you directors to know that the Commissioner of Banks is just as anxious as you are to retire all of your preferred stock as quickly as possible. The one way to accomplish this," continued Mr. Allen, "is to canvass your note base closely, keep it thoroughly maintained at all times, and conform in every way with the General Orders of the Commissioner, as they are uttered primarily for the promotion and maintenance of good banking. There must be thoroughness in this department of your bank. With your most earnest co-operation and a similar attitude among all the other banks in the State, North Carolina bids fair to become the first State in the United States to have all of its State banking institutions rated as No. 1."

Mr. Allen then proceeded to explain to the directors of the Watauga County Bank how the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation rated banking institutions. They have four ratings—No. 1, 2, 3 and 4, depending upon liquidity and general soundness. There are 277 State banks and branches in North Carolina, with all of them except seven industrial banks and one commercial bank with two branches, being members of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. On January 1st last when Federal Deposit Insurance was inaugurated, North Carolina had 206 No. 1 banks, 42 in No. 2 class, 6 in No. 3 and 13 in No. 4. All of the No. 3 and No. 4 banks have been eliminated, and only three banks in our state are in No. 2 class. In other words, 264 State banks are now rated as No. 1 institutions, and 3 as No. 2. Mr. Hood is convinced that on the next joint examination by the State and the F. D. I. C., and three No. 2 banks will be eliminated. These examinations will shortly be made, and Mr. Hood is confident North Carolina will then have a perfect showing.

After Mr. Allen's talk, the directors voted to secure immediately the services of an additional employee, whose sole time will be occupied in work on the notes now held by the Watauga County Bank. Just as fast as collections can be made, approval for the immediate retirement of preferred stock will be requested, and the distribution accomplished.

The Watauga County Bank has been open for unrestricted business just six weeks and one day on last Saturday. During that period deposits have increased over \$100,000.00.

Local and National Leaders on Red Cross

The work of the Red Cross is universal in its scope. The Red Cross appeal for membership should have response from every man and woman in Watauga County.—J. D. Rankin, Chairman of Watauga Chapter.

The Red Cross chapters throughout America were the first line of defense for the unemployed during those trying days before the Federal Government put its funds at the disposal of the unemployed.—Harry L. Hopkins, Federal Relief Administrator.

WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

An Independent Weekly Newspaper—Established in the Year Eighteen Eighty-Eight

VOLUME XLVI, NUMBER 19

BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, NOVEMBER 5, 1934

\$1.50 PER YEAR

DEMOCRATS WIN BY ABOUT 200

New Deal Triumphs Throughout The Nation

ROOSEVELT REGIME WINS APPROVAL THROUGHOUT U. S.

Democratic Leaders Claim Eight Senate Seats Won, Giving Two-Thirds Majority. Fess Trails in Ohio, Reed Beaten in Pennsylvania. Administration to Again Have the Support of Overwhelming Majority.

Eight Republican Senate seats counted by the Democrats as won, guaranteed a top-heavy Roosevelt majority in Congress, as returns from Tuesday's election were tabulated, and the jubilation of the New Dealers mounted with each group of returns they examined. Their favorites were off to flying starts in Connecticut, Ohio, West Virginia, Maryland, Missouri, Indiana and Pennsylvania, and to a lesser lead in New Mexico.

Simon D. Fess, 73-year-old foe of the New Deal, trailed far behind Vice Donahay, Democrat, as returns came in from Ohio, while Senator Reed, outstanding critic of the Administration, was far behind his Democratic rival, Joseph F. Guffey, in one of the most sensational upsets of the election.

It is claimed that three Republican representatives from Illinois have been defeated, including the veteran Fred Britten and Oscar DePriest, negro.

Shipstead Trails Ragan
Farmer-Labor Senator Shipstead went behind Democratic nominee Ragan in Minnesota, while James M. Curley, New Deal candidate led in Massachusetts. In West Virginia a 29-year-old Democrat, Rush D. Holt, was far in the lead of Senator Hatfield, candidate for re-election.

Ohio, Connecticut, Oklahoma and Arizona started in the same direction they did in 1932, and at the half-way mark in the national balloting Chairman Farley recorded his jubilation in a formal statement that "famous figures in the Republican organization have been toppled to oblivion."

State Holds Trend
In North Carolina all Republicans were beaten, no material defection can be seen in the majorities for the various members of Congress, on the basis of early returns, and five to one majorities are apparent in the State-wide races.

In Tennessee the fusion ticket of Pope and Hooper was far behind the regular Democratic nominees, Governor Hill McAlister and Senator Kenneth McKellar. An overwhelming victory was also chalked up by Senator Bachman over Dr. Neal, independent Democrat, for the short term.

In California, Governor Merriam, Republican incumbent, overwhelmed Socialist-Democrat Upton Sinclair in a victory which is expected to better three to one.

IMPORTANT ROAD READY IN 1937

Laurel Creek Highway Will Not Be Constructed at Present, Says Sigmon, and 1937 Is Set for Consummation of Large Project.

The road down the River from Sugar Grove into Tennessee, commonly referred to as the Laurel Creek Highway, will not be constructed until 1937, according to information coming last week from Mr. Ross Sigmon, member of the State Highway and Public Works Commission.

Mr. Sigmon in a letter to Mr. J. C. Walker, Asheville engineer, states that the important project has been placed in line for the 1937 program, and states that he is very sorry that its construction at an earlier date will be impossible, due to the heavy cost. He further states that he considers it the most important project in Watauga County and hopes that they will be able to keep it in the program.

The road, taken over by the State some years ago, is in a passable condition, but it is expected that it will be made into one of the State's main arteries of transportation providing a shorter and better route into Tennessee and the west.

BAPTIST COMMITTEE TO MEET
The Executive Committee of the Three Forks Baptist Association will meet at Willowdale Baptist Church on Sunday, November 11th, at 2:30 p. m. All members are urged to be present.

Wins in Hard Fight



T. C. Bowie, fiery Ashe County senator, who was re-elected Tuesday as Representative by a majority of about 500 over John Weaver, former Democratic leader running with Republican endorsement. A good deal of doubt had been felt in Watauga as to the outcome of the fight.

BANNER ELK BANK BANDITS STILL AT LARGE IN HILLS

\$1,000 Is Taken by Robber Trio in Hold-up Friday Afternoon. Stoney Creek Is Center of Search. Masked Men Force Cashier and Customer to Lie on Floor as they Scoop Up Cash from Tills.

Carter County (Tennessee) officers are scouring the mountains at the head of Doe River, near Stoney Creek, in an attempt to find three men, who help and robbed the Banner Elk, N. C., bank of approximately \$1,000 on Friday afternoon of last week shortly after 1 o'clock. The search which has been carried on within a fifty-mile radius of Banner Elk, centered around Stoney Creek after the Ford V-8, in which the bandits made their escape, was found abandoned by Carter County officers. The window of the machine had been smashed.

Without warning the three men drove up to the bank, two of them entering with drawn pistols, and the third remaining in the car, J. M. Shoemaker, cashier of the bank, and W. H. Jackson, of Nashville, a customer, who were alone in the bank at the time, were forced to lie on the floor while the bandits scooped up all cash contained in the cages. The bandits then forced the two men to enter the vault after Shoemaker had refused to open a safe.

Shot Struck Car
Shoemaker, discovering the bandits had failed to open the vault, made a dash for his pistol and fired three shots as the car drove away in a westerly direction. "I am positive one of the shots smashed the rear window," he stated.

"The two bandits were not wearing masks," he said, "but the face of one was covered with adhesive tape. They apparently are between 20 and 25 years of age and are about 5 feet 8 inches tall. I did not see the face of the driver."

The alarm was immediately spread throughout Western North Carolina and Eastern Tennessee. Every available officer in the vicinity of Banner Elk was dispatched to the scene with orders to scour every road within miles.

These posses, including one in Watauga, were withdrawn following word that the machine had been found in Carter County.

Cashier Shoemaker disclosed Saturday that his check-up revealed that only about \$1,000 had been taken.

GARY WARD

Gary, the twenty months old son of Mr. and Mrs. Dewey Ward of Watauga Falls, died early Saturday from an acute attack of membranous croup. The little fellow was stricken Friday afternoon and everything possible was done for his relief, but he failed to respond to treatment.

It is sad for such a jolly little fellow to be taken from the home so suddenly. Friends and relatives extend their tenderest sympathies to the bereaved.

Surviving are the parents and two small sons, Zane and Dale.—Reported

'FAIR AND SQUARE' SAYS HODGES, AS BALLOTING IS OVER

Long-Standing Election Dispute Ends With Tuesday's Voting. Swift Gets Instructions from State Board of Elections and Argument Over Court House Set-up Is Ended. Suspicious of Discrimination Have Vanished.

"The election was fair and square," County Republican Chairman Russell D. Hodges told The Democrat Tuesday when election returns indicated a Democratic victory by a majority of about 200, and thus it appears that the argument as to fair voting in Watauga County has been definitely settled. Mr. Hodges gives The Democrat the following statement:

"I am greatly pleased that following the ruling of the State Board of Elections, the set up at the polling places of Watauga County was arranged so as to do away with the suspicions which have existed in the past that our party was not being given an even opportunity of victory. In justice to all concerned, I wish to state that the election in Watauga County was fair and square, that I appreciate this, and believe that the end of the dispute will be for the best interests of both parties and the community and county in general."

Discrimination Charges

The contention of the Republicans that the Democrats were conducting the elections in such manner as to discriminate against them, and to cause suspicions of fraud, flared anew some days ago, when Mr. Hodges appealed to State election officials to remedy the situation here. The correspondence, including the reply of Mr. Swift, county election board chairman, was published in The Democrat last week, he later having received a letter giving explicit instructions as to the set-up at the court house in Boone. These instructions were carried out, the Republican officials were allowed near the ballot boxes as directed, "watchers" were inside the enclosure, and partisans of both political faiths mingled in the friendliest manner as the balloting progressed.

BUILDINGS RAZED AT N. WILKESBORO

Spainhour and A. & P. Tea Company Buildings Practically Destroyed by Fire Sunday. Damage Estimated at Over \$75,000.

North Wilkesboro.—Damage estimated at \$75,000 early Sunday was wrought in the business district here by fire that raged more than two hours.

The fire, origin of which was not determined, was discovered about midnight and was brought under control about 2:30 o'clock. A second alarm was sounded, however, about 4:30 o'clock when another conflagration broke out.

North Wilkesboro fire fighters were assisted by companies and equipment from Lenoir and Statesville, which responded promptly to appeals for help.

The Spainhour-Sydnor Dry Goods Company building and stocks were virtually completely destroyed. A building occupied by the Great Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company also was destroyed and the stock of goods badly damaged. Both structures were three stories.

Other nearby buildings were damaged by smoke and water. The Mayflower and Wisteria Beauty Parlors were badly damaged.

The losses were not fully covered.

ROBY HARDIN

Mr. Roby Hardin died Tuesday at Knoxville, Tenn., after a period of declining health extending over a period of years. Mrs. W. R. Spainhour, aunt of deceased, received the brief intelligence of the death, but other details are lacking other than that interment was to have been Thursday afternoon.

Mr. Hardin was the son of the late James Hardin, and has many relatives in this community. He had visited frequently here, particularly at the home of Mrs. Spainhour, and the news of his death is received with sorrow by the many friends of the deceased and of the prominent family.

Elected by Large Majority



Hon. Dalton Warren, Democrat, has been elected by an overwhelming majority for Senator from the Twenty-ninth District. Mr. Warren is a native of Mississippi who has made his home at Sparta for the past several years.

REPUBLICANS IN HUGE GAIN OVER 1932 IN COUNTY

Entire Democratic Ticket Is Elected by Sizeable Majorities in Heavy Voting Tuesday. No Tabulations Entirely Complete. Election Brings End to Colorful Campaign. Spirit of Friendliness Prevails.

Watauga's electorate again endorsed the Democratic party in Tuesday's election, and all county candidates are victors on the basis of practically complete returns from the fourteen voting precincts. While continuing the winning trend started in 1932, the Democracy marched to victory Tuesday with a possibility of a 225 majority as against the record-breaking one thousand lead piled up in the Roosevelt landslide. The official tabulation may show the average Democratic majority to be no more than one hundred and eighty.

Boone, it appears, has returned an average Democratic majority of 573. Laurel Creek's endorsement of the victors ranges from a low of 11 to a high of 29, while Cove Creek gives 240 for the county ticket. In the Democracy's townships, Blowing Rock returns a majority of 15, while in Meat Camp No. 1 it ranges from 24 to 55. In Meat Camp No. 2 the Democratic candidates received 3 majority each with the exception of Sheriff Howell, who had an edge of four.

Watauga returned a Republican majority of 90. Blue Ridge chalked up 215, Stony Fork 175, Shawnee 70, and North Fork followed with an 85 edge in favor of the G. O. P. Elk gress Republican, it would appear, by an average of 196, while Bald Mountain rejects the Democracy by 25.

Doughton Vote Incomplete

Congressman Robert L. Doughton has an edge of 316 over his Republican opponent, Joseph M. Prevette, on the basis of reports from four out of the fourteen precincts, and further information could not be secured as to the Congressional race in time for the press.

No figures are available on the State ticket.

The election marked the culmination of a campaign which until near the end was unattended by the usual enthusiasm.

On the face of the unofficial returns the voting in Watauga County was the heaviest ever experienced. In the race for State Senate, a check-up reveals, ten townships indicate an increase of 227 over the landslide vote of 1932. In Boone Township, 1782 ballots were cast Tuesday as against 1,641 two years ago.

So far as has been heard no disturbances evidenced themselves in any precinct of the county, and the tenseness which has formerly existed between Republicans and Democrats had subsided as they mingled and joked while the first returns from the outlying districts were trickling in.

List of Candidates

On the Democratic county ticket were: Dalton Warren for State Senate; L. S. Spurling, who was unopposed for Solicitor of the Sixteenth District; Dean Swift for Representative; John H. Bingham, who was unopposed for Judge of the Records Court; Austin E. South, Clerk of the Court; A. Y. Howell, Sheriff; Helen Underdown, Register of Deeds; Dr. Jack Love, Coroner; Roby Vines, Surveyor; Eller McNeil, W. F. Miller and Coy I. Billings, for County Commissioners.

The Republican county ticket was composed of the following: For State Senate, George Cheek; for Representative, Walter C. Greene; for Clerk of the Superior Court, Grace Sherwood Bingham; for Sheriff, Fred Hatley; for Register of Deeds, Maud Powell; for Coroner, J. C. Brookshire; for Surveyor, I. A. Bumgarner; for County Commissioners, W. A. Proffitt, Alfred Thomas and Arthur Moody.

DEMOCRATIC MAJORITY INCREASED IN THE HOUSE

An early afternoon dispatch from Washington, D. C., indicates that the Democrats, who maintained a majority of 212 in the past Congress have increased their strength to a majority of 220 in the elections of yesterday. Forecasters had predicted that the Administration would lose at least 20 seats.

The Senate in its next session will witness a two-thirds Democratic majority, the greatest in the since the Civil War.

RED CROSS DRIVE GETS FINE SUPPORT

Business Men and Others Actively Behind Roll Call. Volunteer Workers Named to Make Campaign for Two Hundred Members Here.

Plans for the annual Red Cross membership campaign which opens on November 11 are almost complete. The quota assigned to Watauga chapter is 200 instead of 300 as reported last week. The co-operation of capable leaders in other communities has been secured, and with their help and that of the citizens of Boone this quota should be passed.

The chairman is gratified with the enthusiastic co-operation she is receiving. Practically every merchant on Main Street generously offered to put in a special window display featuring the Red Cross. This almost one hundred per cent response will rival that of cities much larger than this place. The following volunteer workers will assist in the Roll Call:

Blowing Rock: Mrs. I. E. Story and Miss Corinne Knight.
Cove Creek: Mrs. Stanley Harris.
Valle Crucis: Mrs. T. W. Taylor.
Appalachian Teachers College: Miss Lily Dale.
Boone High School: Miss Annie Ruth German.
Demonstration School: Miss Eula Todd.

Boone: Mrs. Ruth Isaacs, Mrs. Jim Rivers, Miss Eva Kirkman, Miss Jewell Hagaman, Mrs. A. R. Smith, Mrs. T. M. Dunkley, Mrs. Ed Qualls, Mrs. Robert Coffey, Mrs. Joe Crawford, Mrs. Russell Hodges, Miss Lorene Miller, Miss Geneva Cook, Miss Floy Cottrell, Mrs. Tracy Council, Miss Mazie Jean Jones.

The Boone workers will be notified where to meet on Monday morning to receive supplies.

HON. L. S. SPURLING TO ADDRESS VETS

Armistice Day Will Be Celebrated in Boone Next Sunday at 2:30 o'clock. Parade of Legionnaires, Wives and Children Feature of Event.

Arrangements are being completed by Watauga Post, American Legion, to celebrate Armistice Day, Sunday, November 11th, with a parade of all ex-service men, their wives and families, to be formed on Depot Street promptly at 2:30 p. m. The line of march will be from Depot Street to the courthouse where all exercises will be held.

Those in charge of the event urge teachers of all schools to bring the children of their schools and the public is invited to participate in the exercises at the courthouse.

Hon. L. S. Spurling, Lenoir, Solicitor of the Sixteenth District, will deliver the main address. All Spanish War veterans, Civil War veterans, and veterans of all wars are requested by the Legion to join in the parade and other exercises.

Thirty herds of Jersey cattle in Catawba County, consisting of about 1,000 head of cows, are being tested for Bangs' disease under the co-operative plan offered by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.