

By J. C. R.

Thankful . . . Yes!

Let's offer up a right good little batch of thanks for the blessings, of one kind and another, that have been tossed our way by a kind Providence during the past twelve-month . . . it's nothing but right that we should. Of course taters are away down low, and cabbage were not so hot, and the bean bugs troubled us a sight, and the weather hasn't been all it should, and taxes are high and tax-gatherers are persistent . . . and, then, it's been pretty to'able hard to buy the youngsters all the knick-knacks they craved, and the old woman has yelled loud and long for a new coat that just wasn't forthcoming . . . and maybe the baby's been sick, or the old man's been down with the rheumatiz, or maybe the cow's gone dry . . . yes, lots of unpleasant matters have developed . . . things that are calculated to make a fellow lose his grip and commit suicide, or something.

But allow your imagination to carry you back a few hundred years to a storm-swept settlement on the New England coast . . . and a pitiful band of Pilgrims bowing their heads and thanking God for the few blessings He had to offer the hard-bitten denizens of a strange land. Frugal blessings, we twentieth century wisecracks would allow . . . for when the Pilgrim bowed his head, just as like as not he'd catch an Indian's arrow right smack in his neck . . . or when he stopped out to shoot one of those turkey gobblers Pilgrims are always pictured carrying around, he probably returned to find that some savage tribe had burned his shanty and carried off his women folks . . . and when he planted corn he didn't have much hope of living till roasting-ear time, much less the day of harvest . . . and the kids had colds and fever, and medical stores were short, and food was scarce, and clothes were scarce! But he WAS thankful . . . that's what the history books declare . . . and the Pilgrims inaugurated the custom of using one day a year to tell the Good Lord about it.

So let's forget those minor heart-aches and backsets and thwarted ambitions and seasons of hard-luck . . . let's be thankful for the "little, commonplace things" that go to make life happy . . . let's be thankful for the bountiful crops of the past growing season, for the roofs over our heads, for the friends who surround us, for the conveniences of this modern age . . . let's be thankful that Hitler dominates Germany instead of America, that Stalin holds the reins in Soviet Russia instead of North Carolina, that Huey Long has seen fit to create a "Utopian empire" in Louisiana instead of our own Watauga . . . let's raise our voices to God in joyful thanksgiving for a great nation which has been carved in the wilderness since that lonely band of Puritans stood with bowed heads at Plymouth Rock!

DEATH COMES TO AGED MINISTER

Rev. Wellington Swift Succumbs at Beaver Dam Home After Period of Declining Health. County's Oldest Minister. Funeral Held Sunday.

Rev. Wellington Swift, who, so far as is recalled was Watauga County's oldest Gospel minister, died at his home in the Beaver Dam section last Friday at the age of 83. Death came to the well known citizen after a long period of declining health.

Funeral services were conducted on Sunday from the Beaver Dam Baptist Church by Rev. R. C. Eggers, his former pastor, and Rev. E. C. Hodges, his present pastor. People came from many different sections to attend the rites, and the great host of sorrowing friends was more than the building would accommodate.

Intertment was in the neighborhood cemetery. Surviving is a widow and ten children, whose residences are scattered over seven different states.

Mr. Swift professed the Christian faith at the age of 17 years and joined the Bethel Baptist Church. In 1874 he became a charter member of the Beaver Dam Church, and a few years later was ordained to the work of the Gospel ministry and had been preaching for more than thirty years.

Mr. Swift had served as pastor of most of the churches in Watauga County, and had held pastorates also in Johnson County, Tennessee, and in Caldwell County. He was widely known throughout this section of the State and the church, county and neighborhood have sustained a great loss in his passing.

BABY WINS PRIZE

Mack Elrod Jr., three-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. McClure Elrod of Boone Route 1, received honorable mention and a medal in a baby contest recently held by Sears Roebuck and Company.

Lindbergh Nursemaid



Trenton, N. J.—Betty Gow, above, nursemaid to the Lindbergh baby at the time of the kidnapping, is returning from Scotland to testify in the trial of Bruno Hauptmann for the child's murder.

TWO ARRESTED IN CONNECTION WITH FATAL CAR CRASH

Mrs. Mollie Norris, Resident of Route One, Crushed When Struck by Car of Virginia Men. Warrants Charge Assault With Deadly Weapon. Funeral for Well-Known Lady Conducted Tuesday at Fairview.

Dr. J. A. Shackelford and J. C. Hooker, residents of Martinsville, Va., were arrested Tuesday on charges of assault with a deadly weapon, as a result of the death of Mrs. W. S. Norris, prominent resident of Boone Route 1, who was crushed beneath an automobile occupied by the Virginia men at a point three miles east of Boone on the Boone Trail Highway, Sunday afternoon.

The accident is reported to have occurred when Mrs. Norris, who was 67 years of age, attempted to cross the road in front of the machine. She had just alighted from another vehicle, it is said, and when struck by the car was dragged about ninety feet. Death was instantaneous. The driver of the car is said to have expressed the belief that he was making perhaps no more than 45 miles per hour, while others allege that the vehicle was traveling maybe as much as 60 miles per hour. The criminal action will be heard Saturday morning before a special session of the recorder's court.

Funeral Held Tuesday. Funeral services for Mrs. Norris were held from the Fairview Methodist Church Tuesday at 11 o'clock, the obsequies being in charge of Rev. Winkler of Todd. Reverends P. L. Smith, Sexton and L. A. Wilson were also present and each briefly eulogized the life of the deceased.

Surviving is the husband and four children: Mrs. Carl Byers, Boone Route 2; Mrs. E. T. Troutman, Statesville, and Miss Stella Norris, Boone Route 1. Seven grandchildren and the following sisters are also listed among the survivors: Mrs. L. L. Taylor, of Boone Route 1; Mrs. W. A. Cowles, Boone Route 1; Mrs. J. F. Greer, Bristol, Va., and Mrs. Mill Norris, Dillon, Oregon.

Mrs. Norris had been a member of the South Fork Baptist Church for 51 years and was always active in her religious affiliations. She was a member of one of the county's most prominent families and had many friends drawn to her by her many admirable traits of Christian character.

Illegal Marketing of Tobacco Is Reported

Williamston, N. C.—The illegal marketing of tobacco scrap in this county has been reported in a number of cases, creating a situation that is subject to cause the farmer to lose his contract and be liable to prosecution under the revenue laws, Assistant County Agent Murphy L. Barnes said yesterday morning.

Farmers have been warned against the irregular sale of their scrap, but quite a number have fallen victim to unfounded explanations advanced by some of those traveling through the county buying the scraps of trash tobacco, it was said. Mr. Barnes clearly pointed out that the contracting grower has only two ways to dispose of his scrap tobacco. The first method is to carry it to the warehouse, where the government field agent will enter the sale on the allotment card. The second method to dispose of the scrap is to destroy it. Some farmers are said to have given the scrap tobacco to their children, who in turn, sold it to truckers. The 25 per cent tax was paid, but even if the tax was paid, the terms of the contract were violated. The contract specifically states that all tobacco grown on a contract farm must be either sold on an allotment card or destroyed.

BOARD ACTS TO PROVIDE MARKET FOR POTATO CROP

Agricultural Board Sends Representatives to Raleigh to Discuss Possibility of Securing Market for Estimated 225,000-Bushel Potato Surplus. Board Also Goes on Record Favoring County Agent.

How to dispose of an estimated 225,000-bushel potato surplus in Watauga County at some sort of satisfactory figure, constituted the principal problem of the county farm board when it met at the courthouse Tuesday afternoon, and Wade E. Brown, Newton Cook and S. C. Eggers went to Raleigh Tuesday to try to interest State relief officials in the purchase of the Carolina-grown spuds.

It was incidentally revealed that potatoes for the destitute were being shipped into North Carolina from Maine, and two carloads, en route, are said to have been diverted to another distributing center, until the advisability of buying home grown potatoes can be forcibly brought to the attention of State relief officials. Recalling that Governor Ehringhaus established a market for eastern potatoes last summer through the Relief Administration, farmers are hopeful that a paying market may be established.

County Agent Recommended. The remainder of the session was devoted to a discussion of the county agent problem, and members of the board in attendance reported community sentiment at least 90 per cent in favor of an agent. Messrs. Brown, Cook and Eggers were then asked to investigate through the State officials as to the men available, approximate costs to the county, etc.

In closing, a motion was unanimously passed that the Watauga Agricultural Board go on record as officially recommending to the Board of County Commissioners at their regular meeting the first Monday in December that a county agent be employed. It was further ordered that the board meet at the courthouse on the first Monday in December at one o'clock and go in a body before the commissioners to make the recommendation.

HAL TEAGUE GETS THREE YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON

Blowing Rock Man Sentenced by Judge Hayes on Charge of Throwing M. S. Phillips Into Vat of Still Mash. Ralph Teague Given Eighteen Months in Chillicothe and Claude Teague Placed on Probation.

Hal Teague of Blowing Rock was sentenced Saturday to three years in the Federal Reformatory at Chillicothe by Judge Johnson J. Hayes at Wilkesboro after he had submitted a plea of nolo contendere on a charge of throwing M. S. Phillips, Ferguson resident, into a vat of hot mash as he was helping Federal agents to destroy a still in Lewis Fork Township, Wilkes County, last summer.

Teague and two of his brothers, Ralph and Claude Teague, and Otis Bauguess, of Blowing Rock, Glenn Hamby, Turner Laws and Morris Matherly, of Wilkes County, were all indicted on a charge of making liquor on which Federal tax had not been paid and operating an unregistered distillery.

Sentences were meted out as follows by Judge Hayes: Hal Teague, 36 months in Chillicothe; Ralph Teague, 18 months in Chillicothe; Morris Matherly, a year and a day in (Continued on Page 8)

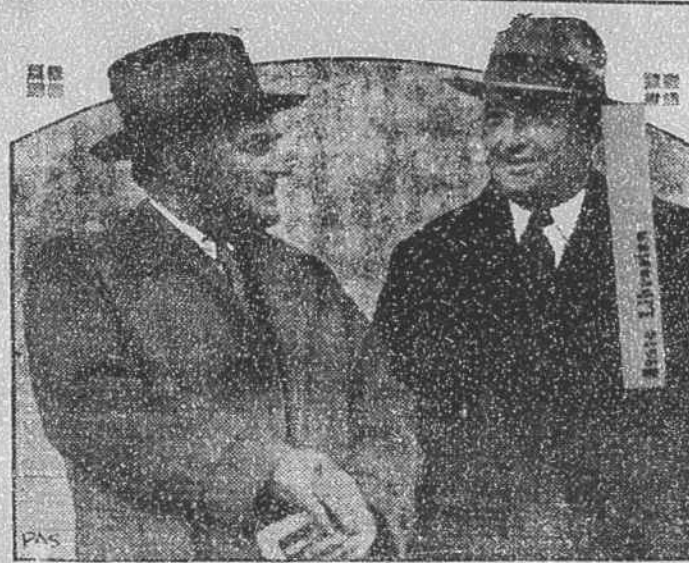
W. N. C. Cattle Plan Rejected by Wallace

Washington.—Secretary Wallace of the Department of Agriculture and Chester Davis, director of the AAA, Friday virtually tossed out of the window the proposal of Western North Carolina cattlemen and relief workers that drought area cattle now being fattened in North Carolina and not yet in condition to be slaughtered and processed for relief be exchanged for fat native cattle.

"We can't chance the program in this respect," said Wallace. "Some of the scrub local stock might be exchanged for outside cattle," while Mr. Davis added "it might work the other way, too, as some of the fine local cattle might be exchanged for an inferior class of drought area stock."

The movement was backed by Congressman Robert L. Doughton of Laurel Springs and Congressman Zebulon Weaver of Asheville. Then they called upon relief officials, they were accompanied by Dr. B. B. Dougherty of Boone, T. Lenoir Gwyn of Wayneville and E. S. Transou of Sparta. The approval of the Agricultural Department officials was necessary before the FERA could take any action.

Pennsylvania's "Mysterious Strangers"



Washington, D. C.—A couple of "mysterious strangers" showed up around here this week. They were joyful Democrats from Pennsylvania. On the left, U. S. Senator-elect Joseph F. Guffey, and on the right, Governor-elect George H. Earle. Mr. Guffey is the first Democratic Senator from Pennsylvania since 1875 and Mr. Earle the first Democratic Governor for that commonwealth since 1899.

Election Fraud Allegations Flare As Watauga Partisans Appear In Raleigh Hearing

State Board Says Poll Books Must Be Brought in by Saturday. Republicans Allege Manifold Abuses of Voting System, Stuffed Boxes and Illegal Absentees. Democrats Insinuate Books Are in Hands of Republican Chairman R. D. Hodges.

Charges of widespread and flagrant abuses and violations of the State election laws, were aired before the State Board of Elections in Raleigh Tuesday night when Democratic officials answered the charges of the Republicans that the former had not after all conducted the balloting in a fair and unbiased manner on November 6th.

Among other things the Republicans, who lost at the polls by a greatly reduced majority, charged that the poll books in Boone and Cove Creek precincts were never turned over to the Clerk of the Court as required by law; that votes tabulated will not correspond to the number of names on the poll books; that the ballot boxes were stuffed; 200 fraudulent absentee votes were cast, and other charges indicating a dissipation of the free and untrammelled privilege of the franchise.

These charges were answered by the Democrats with insinuations, supported by affidavits, that the controversial poll books were in the hands of Russell D. Hodges, chairman of the Republican Executive Committee of Watauga. Mr. Hodges made an immediate denial.

The hearing, which was conducted by W. A. Lucas of Wilson, acting chairman, was a hectic session and wound up by the dismissal of all charges except those involving the loss of the poll books. The Watauga Board of Elections was given until next Saturday to produce these, failure to do so leaving the respective registrars subject to criminal action. If the poll books are produced, it is explained, the Republicans are to be allowed to check them and bring complaint if discrepancies exist.

PRESS REPORTS

Following is a part of the report of the meeting by the Raleigh press correspondent:

"A storm of affidavits charging flagrant abuses of election procedure in Watauga County, which cannot act (Continued on Page 8)

JOHN L. NELSON, JUNIOR OFFICIAL, IS KILLED IN CAR CRASH AT HENDERSON

John L. Nelson, 60, of Morganton, prominent in fraternal circles and well known to Jr. O. U. A. M. members in Watauga County, was instantly killed in an automobile collision near Henderson, N. C., on Friday afternoon.

The coupe which Nelson was driving collided with a heavyfreight truck from Burlington operated by William F. Befibaugh of Cumberland, Md. Befibaugh was exonerated of blame by a coroner's jury.

Testimony at the inquest indicated that Mr. Nelson, who was driving alone, had turned out of a traffic lane to pass another car and was met by the truck before he could right his car on the road.

Mr. Nelson was deputy of the fourth district, Junior Order of United American Mechanics, and was a representative of the beneficiary and insurance departments of the fraternal order. When the local council was formed he took a large part in the work, and made many friends throughout Watauga. He had been a frequent visitor to Boone for a number of years.

Mr. Nelson was a native of Patterson, Caldwell County, a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. William R. Nelson. He had lived in Morganton since early manhood and for the last year had devoted his entire time to fraternal work.

Surviving are the widow, one son, one daughter, three brothers and four sisters.

MRS. ROBY GREER SUCCUMBS AFTER A LONG ILLNESS

Wife of Watauga Legislator Dies in Wilkes Hospital. Funeral Services from Baptist Church Wednesday Morning and Intertment in Town Cemetery. Had Been Prominent in Business and Church Activities.

Mrs. Ruth Cottrell Greer, 20-year-old wife of Representative Roby T. Greer of Watauga, died at Wilkes Hospital on Tuesday afternoon, where she had been a patient for four weeks. The immediate cause of death was given as septic pneumonia.

Funeral services were conducted from the Boone Baptist Church at 11 o'clock Wednesday by the pastor, Rev. J. C. Canipe, who was assisted in the rites by Reverends P. A. Hicks, W. C. Payne and W. D. Ashley. Intertment was in the city cemetery, the arrangements being by Reins-Sturdivant Funeral Home.

Active pallbearers were: Tracy Council, Rob Rivers, Brenard Dougherty, Donald Boyden, Kenneth Quinell, Pat McGuire, Gurney Brinkley and Van Teague. Honorary: Dr. H. B. Perry, Dr. F. C. Hubbard, Sheriff A. Y. Howell, T. C. Baird, Smith Haggaman, George Sudderth, Eller McNeil, Frank Moore, J. L. Qualls, A. E. South, L. L. Critcher, H. N. Blair, W. D. Farthing, J. A. Williams, Gordon Winkler, G. P. Hegaman, W. C. Walker, Dr. G. K. Moore, W. C. Greer, Bynum Taylor, Ben Watson, D. D. Dougherty and J. S. Stanbury.

The large and beautiful floral offering was borne by the following ladies: Eric Greer, Mrs. Ruth Redmond, Mrs. Baxter Linney, Bernice Gragg, Annie Dougherty, Mrs. Dean Bingham, Mrs. Ruth Porter, Mrs. Frank Williams, Mrs. Pat McGuire, Mrs. R. D. Hodges, Marguerite Miller, Mrs. Ruth Kennedy, Mrs. W. Ralph Winkler, Grace Graybeal, Kathryn Harwell, Harriet Mae Craven, Loretta O'Daniel, Mrs. Howard Gragg, Mrs. Grady Farthing, Maude Greene, Louise Critcher, Mrs. David Greene, Mrs. Alice Council Robbins, and Mrs. Guy Mattox.

Surviving are the husband, an infant son, David Thomas Greer, the parents, Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Cottrell of Boone, and the following brothers and sisters: Dallas Cottrell, Mountain City, Tenn.; Howard Cottrell, Ocala, Fla.; Raleigh Cottrell Boone; Mrs. Ruby Wilhelm, Memphis, Tenn.; Miss Floy Cottrell, Boone.

A Native of Boone. Mrs. Greer was born and reared in Boone, a member of one of the town's foremost families. She was graduated from Appalachian College and at Draughan's Business College in Winston-Salem. Following her commercial education she was employed for a number of years as bookkeeper for the Boone Hardware Company, and was later a valued employee of the Peoples Bank and Trust Company. During the session of 1933 she occupied a secretarial position in the Legislature.

Although prominent in the business life of the community, Mrs. Greer was able to devote a large amount of her time and energies to religious endeavor. She was a member of the Boone Baptist Church, had for a long time been teacher in the Sunday School, was active in the B. Y. P. U., Y. W. C. A. and other worthy organizations and was secretary of the Baptist Sunday School.

Rarely had a young lady ridden in so admirably in the business, social and religious life of the community as has Mrs. Greer, and genuine sorrow is expressed on account of her demise.

Relief Offices Asked For Chestnut Timber. Mr. Chauncy Moody of the local emergency relief office is in receipt of a letter from Mr. E. W. Cole, third district engineer, asking for information as to the possibility of securing chestnut poles and cross arm material in this county. Mr. Cole states that the poles will have to average thirty feet in length with 7-inch tops for the State program.

He further states that a quantity of this material will be needed and says that if anything of interest can be located, with an estimate of the quantity available, it will be a great help in working out a State labor project for this territory. Mr. Moody would be glad to know of any considerable quantity of the chestnut timber in order that he may convey the information to Mr. Cole.

RELIEF OFFICES ARE TO BE MOVED

North Wilkesboro Will Have Regional Administrative Offices for FERA, According to Instructions from Raleigh Received Here.

The Watauga County Emergency Relief Administration will cease to function as an independent administrative unit on the 6th of December, according to instructions received by Miss Theodosia Watson, and the affairs of ERA as applied to Watauga County are to be taken care of from a regional office in North Wilkesboro.

Information is that the closing of the office in Boone is brought about in an effort to lessen administrative costs. Those on the relief rolls will be looked after by the regular case workers, it is stated, and only one stenographer will be employed locally to look after their secretarial work.

FUTURE FARMERS MEET

The Cove Creek Chapter of Future Farmers met on Friday, November 16th, and rendered the following program: Dale Adams gave a talk on "Making the Best on the Feed You Have." Some very amusing jokes were given by Gilbert Ward. The club was honored by the presence of Mr. Techey, district supervisor of the F. F. A.,