

BOONE SKETCHES

By J. C. R.

CHRISTMAS ON THE WAY

Children wash their ears a whole lot cleaner about this time of year, and they say "yes, ma'am" and "no, sir" without being told. . . and little girls dry dishes while little boys carry in wood. . . and there's little complaining and fretting and grumbling. . . for Old Santa Claus, 'way up at the North Pole, is listening, listening all the time. . . making up his mind as to just who'll get the dolls, the sleds, the wagons, the candy and such-like! A lot of foolish grown-ups look skeptically on this Santa Claus business. . . they try to argue that there ain't no such animal. . . that those who believe are clinging to the false traditions of an ignorant age. Wise guys. . . in a pig's eye! Why, Clara-belle, it's folks like these. . . born in His image, as 'twas. . . who go about the countryside broadcasting this new-fangled doctrine of infidelity. . . telling boys and girls and men and women that there was no star in the eastern heavens. . . that there were no wise men. . . that there was no Christ child in the manger at Bethlehem. . . that the "first Christmas" is just another "unreasonable" legend. . . that man's soul lives only in the imagination! Blind, stupid, grasping prophets who seek to rob the big folks of their only hope. . . and childhood of its Santa Claus! But despite the bickerings of this lousy minority. . . there WAS a heaven-born child in that lowly crib. . . and there IS a kind, loving old gentleman who brings dolls and wagons and candy and fruits to good little boys and girls on Christmas morning!

PRISON WORKER

It's not the intention of this unholy one to pass judgment on those who preach and teach the Christian religion. . . and seeing as how we dwell in a transparent tenement, throwing rocks is another of the every-day pastimes that we indulge in not hardly any. . . but to save our lives we can't help but mention a strange-looking fellow who drops in ever so often, soliciting, in rather peculiar fashion, money and stuff! We're taking it for granted this perennial visitor is a full-fledged, Heaven-called parson. . . for his card, poorly printed as it is, bears an East Tennessee name with a "Reverend" right dab in front of it! The card, quite incidentally, is to be read and returned, as it were. . . and along with the cognomen of its bearer are a couple of verses of Scripture the first of which tells the reader that "God so loved the world". . . and right down below, in bold letters, are the words "Prison Worker." But the Tennessee missionary's approach is a thing of rare technical charm. . . he kinda slinks in before you know he's in the neighborhood. . . he rests his good eye (one has gone haywire) on the subject of his "touch". . . he proffers the card. . . the subject reads to heart's content. . . he looks the good man over. . . the good man looks floorward. . . he returns the cardboard with dime or quarter attached. . . not one word falls from the toothless mouth of the Reverend. . . he slinks away, quietly as he came! Now the Reverend never actually asks a fellow for a single thing. . . he just don't talk. In the past few years we have entertained him frequently. . . in the alleged capacity of a Salvationist, minus uniform; in the cap of a Christian Volunteer, minus military coat; in the dusty garb of a wayfaring beggar. . . and with an unbounded appreciation for his versatility, and an occasional hope that maybe a good deed was being performed, we have donated steadily to his varied enterprises. But the thought of our old comrade becoming a "prison worker" fairly burns the hide off'n us. . . it just don't seem to click! Of course, there are two kinds of prison workers. . . voluntary and enforced. . . so we're laying a dime to a doughnut that the quiet, slinking, ragged, dirty Tennessee belongs, on occasion, to the greater majority. . . his dingy card didn't say!

LET US RELIEVE YOU!

We like Mr. Roosevelt immensely. . . we like his TVA, and AAA, and HOLC, and FIDC. . . and dozens and dozens of other bureaus and administrations that have come into being since March 4th, 1933. . . yes, we voted for Franklin Delano, expect to do it again, will enjoy doing it again. . . and we'll lick the guy who dares to slander his good name. . . but the Administration has certainly made one little mistake. . . just a little mistake of three letters. . . ERA! Now this Emergency Relief Administration was brought into being for the purpose of satisfying hunger, for the purpose of buying shoes and stockings and breeches and overcoats for those who didn't have any. . . for the purpose of creating jobs for the unemployed! But instead of relieving these ills it has created other ailments. . . there are five hundred applicants for every "soft job" offered. . . four ninety-nine of whom are disappointed! There is bickering

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BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 1934

\$1.50 PER YEAR

ABINGDON BURLEY MARKET AVERAGES \$20.85 OPENING DAY

Leaf Brings Near Twice the Average of 1933 as Virginia Warehouses Open. Many Watauga Farmers Dispose of Crop. Price Paid Bears Out Twenty-Cent Prediction of Marketing Experts.

A large number of Watauga County farmers were on hand in Abingdon Tuesday, when the warehouses opened for the sale of Burley tobacco, and the day's average turned out to be \$20.85 per hundred, as against a season average of around 12 cents for 1933.

A good number of baskets of the Watauga leaf were in the first day's offerings, and a larger amount of the weed will go from this section later in the week. No reports have been received from the Tennessee markets, but from Louisville, Ky., comes reports of an opening average of \$19.90.

Growers are elated over the improved price condition, and the prediction of tobacco experts of more than a 20-cent average is being exceeded, with prospects for an improvement as the higher grades begin to show up.

The quality of the Watauga crop is said to be good, and the acreage, despite reduction agreements of the AAA, is about in keeping with former years.

AUTO ACCIDENT TO HIGH COURT

Dr. Shackelford of Martinsville Is Bound to Superior Court on Charge Growing Out of the Death of Mrs. W. S. Norris.

Dr. J. A. Shackelford, resident of Martinsville, Va., who allegedly drove the automobile which instantly killed Mrs. W. S. Norris of Route 1 as she attempted to cross the Boone Trail Highway, was bound over to the Superior Court by Judge John H. Bingham at a special term of Recorders Court last Saturday. Mr. J. C. Hooker of the same city, a passenger in the car, was acquitted.

The charges brought against the Virginia physician are for an assault with deadly weapon, and conflicting evidence develops. The speed the machine was making at the time of the fatal accident is variously reported at from 40 to 60 miles per hour. The case will be disposed of at the April court term.

VALLE CRUCIS NEWS

Mr. and Mrs. Joe C. Mast entertained at dinner Thanksgiving in honor of Mr. and Mrs. John Abernethy of Lincoln, the following: Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Olsen, Misses Nancy and Gladys Taylor, Messrs. Frank and Gilbert Taylor, and Dr. Matheson of Boone.

Misses Pearl and Grace Mast accompanied Miss Virginia and Mr. Robert Shipley to Blacksburg, Va., visiting the latter's mother and brother. While there they attended the V. M. I. and V. P. I. football game.

Miss Myrtle Caudell, a teacher of Seven Springs, is spending the holiday with her father, Mr. George Caudell.

On Friday evening Mr. and Mrs. Aubin Farthing had as dinner guests in honor of Ray's birthday, the following: Misses Laura Farthing, Gladys Tester, Messrs. George and Wheeler Farthing and Frank Taylor.

Mr. Gilbert Taylor has returned to Chapel Hill to resume his studies at the University of North Carolina after spending the holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Taylor.

Miss Beulah Baird left Wednesday to spend the Thanksgiving holidays in Richmond, Va., with her sister, Miss Mary Alice Baird.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Taylor and Lou Anne spent Saturday night with home folks en route to Greenville, Tenn.

A birthday party of unusual interest was given at the home of Mr. and Mrs. D. F. Mast in honor of Mrs. Leona Mast and Mrs. John Abernethy. Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Lund of New Jersey presented the turkey and cake. About twenty guests enjoyed the delightful occasion.

Mr. and Mrs. N. O. Smoak and two children of Wilkesboro were guests Sunday in the home of Mr. and Mrs. M. W. Beach.

and growling and swearin' someone has been favored more than somebody else by the gov'mint. . . relief families quarrel over the cutting-up of drought cattle. . . they just can't seem to get the cuts they desire. . . and food orders are "too small for a fellow to live on" in many cases. . . and they're "givin' the Dimmy-crats all the good jobs, while we uns can't get a thing to do!" It's just one racket after another, one patch of trouble following t'other! Relief, they call it, but it's caused more loss of sleep in Watauga, ten to one, than the panic itself!

Pictured Most Often



New York.—Six years ago Miss Grace Moore (above) came down to New York from a Canadian girls' school and started in modeling. Now she ranks first as Manhattan's most photographed model.

SECOND PAYMENT IS MADE AT BANK

\$20,000 Distributed to Depositors of Watauga County Bank. Interest Included to Date. Report Greatly Accelerated Business.

A second dividend of ten per cent. is being distributed this week to holders of preferred stock in the Watauga County Bank, representing deposits booked before its reopening. The current payment is in the amount of \$20,000, and together with this amount goes forth \$9,000, representing interest due stockholders to date. A few weeks ago a dividend of \$40,000 was distributed.

Mr. G. P. Haganan, the cashier, asks that all who have not received their checks call and get them as early as possible. At the same time he calls attention to the marked increase in business since the opening of the bank. More than \$190,000 is now on deposit, he says, and new accounts are being opened regularly. The improved condition, brought about largely on account of the Federal guarantee of deposits, has dissipated the fear of banking which some people entertained following the presidential holiday.

OATHS GIVEN TO NEW OFFICIALS

Only Two Inducted Into Office Who Do Not Succeed Themselves. Dr. Love New Coroner, While Swift Succeeds Greer as Legislator.

Watauga County's new officials, elected as a result of the voting on November 6th, took over the reins of government Monday. All of those to whom the oath was administered succeeded themselves with the exception of Dr. Jack Love who went in as Coroner in the place of Dr. J. B. Haganan, and Dean Swift, who succeeds Roby T. Greer as Representative in the Legislature.

Those sworn in are: Dean Swift, as Representative; John H. Bingham, as Judge of the Recorders Court; Austin E. South, Clerk of the Superior Court; A. Y. Howell, Sheriff; Roby Vines, Surveyor; Miss Helen Underdown, Register of Deeds; Dr. Jack Love, Coroner; Eller McNeil, W. F. Miller and C. I. Billings, Commissioners.

Six Wataugans to Get Farm Census Posts

Six Watauga countians are to be appointed as enumerators for the agricultural census, beginning January 1st, according to advices coming from Washington Saturday. It is revealed that the enumerators will be required to work about twenty days in gathering the farm data, and they will work under G. F. McAllister of Mount Pleasant, who is slated for supervisor of the Ninth District.

Under the arrangement, Ashe will be allowed 12 enumerators, Caldwell 6, and Alleghany 4, mentioning only the nearest counties of the Ninth District.

HOME ECONOMICS DEPT. TO SPONSOR BAZAAR SATURDAY

The Home Economics Department of the High School will sponsor a bazaar to be held Saturday afternoon, December 8, 3:00 o'clock, in the lobby of the Critcher Hotel.

Toys, cakes, and attractive Christmas novelties will be on display. Several donations have been made by the merchants and other citizens of the town. Prices are very reasonable and everyone is invited. Orders will be taken if supply should be exhausted. Proceeds will be used for the improvement of the Home Economics Department.

VANISHING POLL BOOKS MAY BRING ON COURT ACTION

Raleigh Newspaper Learns That Grand Jury Investigation Appears Likely on Account of Missing Poll Books in Boone and Cove Creek Precincts. Saturday was Deadline and Books Were Not Forthcoming.

The Raleigh News and Observer has learned from capital city sources that "grand jury investigation of the mystery of the missing poll books in two precincts of Watauga County appears likely." Allegations say that the books disappeared on election night, November 6th, and representatives of both sides of the political fence, in a dispute over the results of the voting, have indicated ignorance concerning the whereabouts of the records referred to.

Raymond Maxwell, secretary of the State Board of Elections, Monday notified W. A. Lucas of Wilson, who served as chairman of the board at last week's meeting, that his office had been informed the missing poll books could not be located. At the meeting last Tuesday, when disputing partisans journeyed to Raleigh to appear before the State Board, warning was given that the books must be produced by last Saturday noon, at the same time threatening to refer the matter to the prosecuting attorney of this district.

No Further Developments

The deadline passed, without further developments, the books of Cove Creek and Boone precincts apparently having never been found. It was pointed out by the State officials that under the law the registrars are held responsible for the delivery of the poll books to the clerk of the court. Austin E. South, clerk, said the Boone and Cove Creek books were never delivered to him.

At the same time, the Republicans asked for a recount, charging that a number of persons were voted illegally, and that other illegal ballots were cast. They claimed the results of the election, won by the Democrats by a narrow margin, would be changed if the State Board investigated.

R. S. Swift, chairman of the local election board, declined to make a public statement through The Democrat this week.

Red Cross Roll Call Is Largest in Many Years

Mrs. Herman Eggers, local roll call chairman for the American Red Cross, announces that on the basis of reports received from workers, the quota of two hundred memberships is likely to be exceeded in the current drive. An unusual response from students and faculty members at Appalachian State Teachers College has carried the receipts far beyond those of past years, and a number of communities, including Blowing Rock have not yet sent in their reports. Following is a list of memberships reported since last week:

Boone: Aubrey L. Eggers, Ralph Winkler, Wade Brown, James Council, Watt Gragg, S. C. Eggers, Mrs. James Carter, Rob Rivers, and Jim Rivers.

Boone High School; Grace Graybeal, Laurie Stewart, and Annie Ruth German.

Cove Creek: Roy Ellison, Jennie Love, George Farthing.

Appalachian State Teachers College: Lily Dale, Beverly Fowler, Evelyn Caudle, Virginia Wary, James Monroe Downum, Herman R. Eggers, Leonard Eury, Katherine Harwell, Mrs. D. C. Redmond, Ida Belle Ledbetter, A. J. Greene, Mrs. Lillie B. Hardin, Jennie Todd, Mrs. Emma Moore, Lona Moretz, J. D. Rankin, V. C. Howell, Cora LeMay, Nancy Lewis, J. Harold Wolfe, Carolyn Weaver, Kenneth Barrs, Vera Isenhour, Elizabeth Shipman, Garnette Shipman, Antonius Antonakos, Dr. B. E. Dougherty; Appalachian Literary Society, \$1.25; Dyncian Society, \$22.00; Vernician Society, \$7.50; Thalian Society, \$15.00; Philaretian Society, \$9.50.

RAPID PROGRESS IN SPECIAL TERM

More Than Thirty Cases Disposed of in Judge Sinclair's Court by Wednesday Afternoon. Lawyers Expect Calendar to Be Cleared.

Judge N. A. Sinclair of Fayetteville is presiding at the special term of Watauga Superior Court for the trial of civil cases, which convened Monday, and rapid progress is being made toward clearing away an accumulated calendar of near 70 cases.

About thirty cases had been disposed of by Wednesday afternoon and one barrister of long standing says that he has never seen a court perform with such precision and dispatch. Lawyers expect that the entire docket will have been disposed of before the end of the allotted two weeks.

Mrs. Council Passes Her 102nd Birthday



Mrs. Alice Council, Hickory's beloved old lady, passed her one hundred and second milestone Saturday (December 1) by receiving intimate friends and members of her family. Mrs. Council was born at Sunter, S. C., but has been making her home at Hickory for a number of years. She is a widow of the late Dr. J. B. Council, resided in Boone for more than sixty years, and is the oldest living alumnae of Salem College. She is unusually active for one of her years, and regularly spends the summer, with a grandson, Donald J. Boyden, at Blowing Rock.

DOTSON NAMED AS HIGH SCHOOL HEAD

Member of Faculty and Graduate of Teachers College Succeeds Guy H. Hill as Principal. Action Taken at Meeting Monday Evening.

Prof. Roy Dotson was chosen principal of the Boone High School to succeed Guy H. Hill, resigned, at a meeting of the local school committee Monday evening.

Mr. Dotson, who has already taken over his new duties, has been a member of the faculty of the High School, and done some work in the college since he received his B. S. degree there about two years ago. He had taught in the county schools for a number of years before graduating from college, and has the distinction and pleasure of receiving his degree at the same time similar honors were conferred on a son and daughter. He is now doing special work at intervals at Duke University preparatory to a Master's degree. He is eminently qualified to fill the position in the Boone School.

Mr. Hill has moved to Mount Airy where he will be engaged in the sale of automobile accessories.

DOUGHTON READY TO STUDY TAXES

Ways and Means Chairman Arrives at Capital to Begin Work With Special Committee. Favors Bonus Payment to Needy Veterans.

Washington, D. C.—Representative Robert L. Doughton arrived in Washington Tuesday and will join a special committee of the Ways and Means Committee, of which he is chairman, in a study of tax matters. Mr. Doughton said there will be no increase in taxes, unless it should become "absolutely necessary" to provide additional revenue for the Treasury.

Mr. Doughton said he would confer with President Roosevelt and Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau shortly to get their views as to what they thought will be needed to run the Federal machinery during the next fiscal year, and then his committee would shape its program accordingly.

Mr. Doughton will be here until the week before Christmas in connection with his work with the special committee on taxation, and other routine departmental work connected with his office.

Asked as to his position on the cash payment of the bonus, Doughton said he would like to see a plan worked out for paying the veterans, especially the needy ones.

FARM QUESTION

When should manure be applied to the garden plot?

Answer: Manure is best applied during the fall and winter months. On soils of average fertility about ten two-horse loads should be broadcast to the acre and plowed under as soon as possible. This fall or winter plowing not only keeps all plant nutrients in the soil, but it also aids in the destruction of insect pests and plant diseases by exposing them to the freezing weather. If manure is applied in the spring or summer it should be in a well-rotted condition.

FARMERS ASK FOR COUNTY AGENT AT BOARD MEETING

Commissioners Not Unfriendly to Proposal but Find Difficulty in Providing Salary. Farmers from Eleven Townships of County Gather and Will Be Settled Next Friday at Farm Meeting Saturday.

Members of the Watauga Agricultural Board representing all but two of the County's thirteen townships, crowded the rooms of the County Commissioners Monday, imploring them to employ a county farm demonstration agent. The request came as the result of a resolution passed at the last regular meeting of the farmers, at which time they went on record as unanimously favoring the farm agent proposal.

The meeting with the commissioners took the form of a sort of round table discussion, and farmers from every section voiced their approval of the demonstration agent, many even asking the officials to raise the tax levy in order to meet the added expense. This it appeared officially impossible to do, since the fiscal year ends next July and the levy is already made and being collected. Mr. J. R. McRary of the State College Extension Service was with the farmers and suggested that at times it was necessary for an individual or a government to borrow money in order to make a paying investment, and his remarks found ready agreement among the agrarians.

Billings and McNeil Approve

Chairman Eller McNeil said he approved the employment of a farm agent as did Mr. Coy Billings, but indicated that they had thus far been unable to figure out the salary end of the deal, with no chance of raising the tax levy until next summer.

Mr. W. F. Miller, the third member of the board, being absent, it was agreed that the matter would be finally decided at a special commissioners meeting December 14th, and later it was announced that the farm board would meet at the courthouse on the following day, the 15th, at 1 o'clock.

Farmers appearing before the board indicated a sentiment in their respective sections of more than 90 per cent in favor of a farm agent, and are very anxious that a man be put on the job not later than the first of the year.

Tubercular Seal Sale Begins in Watauga

Mrs. Stanley Harris, county chairman of the Tubercular Christmas Seal campaign, announces that the stamps are now on sale in Watauga and urges local people to support this nation-wide enterprise. Nineteen thirty-four marks the fiftieth anniversary of the organized fight on tuberculosis in the United States, and the Christmas seal this year bears the picture of the small Adirondacks cottage in which Trudeau began this great work.

Mrs. Harris has not completed her organization, but states that stamps will be on sale in practically all county schools. Seventy-five per cent of the fund raised will be kept in Watauga for the treatment of destitute tubercular patients.

METHODIST BAZAAR

The annual bazaar, sponsored by the missionary circles of the Methodist Church, will be held in the basement of the church on Thursday, December 6th, from 3 until 6 p. m. Handmade articles of embroidery, crochet, etc., also home-made candy and cake will be offered for sale. This is a good opportunity to select gifts for Christmas, and an invitation is extended to everyone to attend.

CHRISTMAS ADVERTISING

Holly leaves are beginning to adorn the advertisements carried in the local newspaper and Christmas offerings will be extensively featured in The Democrat next week. The publishers are anxious that business men co-operate fully in the preparation of material for this edition, and prepare copy as rapidly as possible. Decorative materials, layouts, cuts, etc., are supplied, but it will be necessary for much of the copy to be in the hands of the printers during the present week in order that the vast amount of additional work may be accomplished on time. Complete co-operation with the solicitor will be appreciated and will ensure to mutual advantage.