

LAMPS kerosene
 A kerosene lamp—or, as the English call it, a "paraffin" lamp—exploded in the servants' quarters of St. James' Palace in London, where the Prince of Wales lives, the other day, and set fire to the building. I have heard of nothing recently which so aptly illustrates how long it takes to bring new inventions and conveniences into general use. When one of the British royal palaces still relies on oil lamps, it is not surprising that we still have millions of homes in America that have not been wired for electricity.

I have been trying to remember when I first lived in a house with electric lights. I was 35 years old, and had lived in several good-sized cities, before I had electricity in my own home. It will be a long time yet before electric lights are universal.

WINDMILLS nature's power
 The oldest and almost the last of the picturesque Dutch windmills on Cape Cod is going to be moved to Henry Ford's museum at Dearborn. Mr. Ford has assembled there the largest collection of American antiques in the world, for the purpose of showing the students in his trade school—and others—how things used to be made and done.

The windmill is perhaps the most primitive of all of man's efforts to harness the forces of nature, and was efficient enough when nobody was in a hurry to get things done. The Pilgrims of Plymouth brought the Dutch windmill idea with them from Holland, where they had spent 14 years before embarking in the "Mayflower" for America.

I can remember as a boy "Down East" going with my father with a load of corn to be ground into meal in one of those old windmills. Now they are merely ornaments—and back in Holland, where they have been used for centuries to pump the water out from behind the dikes, they are being replaced by the more modern and efficient Diesel engines.

INSURANCE old age
 Everybody who reads this, if he or she works for salary or wages in any business or industry except farming, will have to begin pretty soon to pay Uncle Sam something out of the pay envelope every payday.

I've just been studying the Social Security Act, passed last Summer, beginning Jan. 1, 1937, it sets the Federal Government up as the biggest life insurance company in the world. Every worker—40 or 50 million of us—will be taxed on our incomes to pay the premiums on death benefits and old age annuities after we're 65. Every employer will have to pay the same tax on what he pays us, and besides that, a tax on his payroll for the Unemployment Compensation Fund.

I can't quarrel much with the idea of compulsory saving for old age, which is what this all amounts to, but I'm wondering how well this fund will be managed by the political appointees who will run it, especially when it gets up to fifty billion dollars or so.

UNEMPLOYMENT facts
 The greatest advantage of the new Unemployment Compensation law, in the Social Security Act, is that it will effectively separate the sheep from the goats. It will provide compensation when "laid off" for workers who have really been on payrolls, and leave only the chronic loafers to "relief."

Nobody knows, nobody ever has known, how many genuine cases there are now or have been at any time of men and women willing and able to work, but unemployed thru' no fault of their own. The number I believe is much smaller than most of the so-called statistics would indicate.

Before the Social Security Act has been in effect very long, we'll have some actual facts before us when we talk about unemployment.

FINGERPRINTS on file
 One of the provisions of the Social Security Act seems to point to the fingerprinting of every worker. Everyone who pays the Old Age Tax, or for whom it is paid, has got to have not only proof that it has been paid, but that he is the individual entitled to its benefits, when the time comes to collect.

The Act contemplates a system of books, stamps and coupons, and "any helpful means of identification." I foresee a new social system in America, like that of European countries, where everybody—at least all of us who work for wages—will have to carry his complete dossier, a record of where he was born, where he has worked, how much he has earned and proof that his Old Age tax has been paid.

And all of those individual records, some 40 or 50 million of them, with fingerprints, will have to be on file in Washington.

Lincoln county poultry growers shipped 6,190 pounds of poultry for which they received \$1,039 in cash at the car door last week to complete total shipments worth \$9,285 this season.

CRIPPLED CHILDREN GREET PRESIDENT

Victims of Paralysis Turn Out to Welcome Chief Executive On His Annual Thanksgiving Pilgrimage.



Patients in the Warm Springs Foundation at Warm Springs, Ga., look forward through the year to the arrival of their illustrious toastmaster, President Roosevelt, for their Thanksgiving Day dinner. Photo shows the joyful greetings of the little folks upon the arrival of the President last week, for his annual sojourn with them over Thanksgiving.

GIVEN TWO YEARS KNIFING SHERIFF

Paul Baker Sentenced Monday; Required to Pay \$315 in Hospital Fees.

Paul Baker, 26-year-old Watauga man, was sentenced by Judge Sink in Caldwell superior court Monday to 24 months on the roads, for stabbing Sheriff Tolbert and Jailer Parlier, as they attempted to arrest him in October. It was further ordered by the court that the defendant pay \$315 in hospital bills incurred because of the attack.

Judgment in so far as public drunkenness was concerned was suspended, as was a separate 24-months sentence imposed for the cutting of the jailer. The Judge held that an assault with a deadly weapon had been committed on each of the officers, but that felonious intent to kill Sheriff Tolbert had not been shown. A bench warrant for Mrs. Baker on a charge of obstructing justice was quashed on reconsideration.

The officers received right severe cuts as they arrested young Baker on a charge of public drunkenness.

ARTHUR CHURCH IS FATALLY INJURED

Young Man Catches Ride And Is Killed In Accident Near Valle Crucis.

Arthur Church, 22-year-old resident of Shady, Tenn., and native of Watauga county, was killed Saturday afternoon in a motor truck accident near Valle Crucis. Information is that Church had hailed a truck driven by Mr. Dallas Hartley of Bamboo, had been given a lift, and that within a space of three hundred yards, the truck was crowded off the highway by another vehicle, and the passenger was crushed to death as the machine turned over.

Mr. Church was said to have been en route to his home in Tennessee at the time. Funeral details or other particulars are unavailable.

Deceased was a son of the late Joe Church of Watauga county and leaves many relatives in this section. Ralph and Bert Church of Boone, are cousins.

County Tax Collections Reflect Better Business

Business is better, much better, in Watauga county, according to County Tax Collector A. D. Wilson, who submits the record of the county's cash income as proof of his statement. Collections of 1935 taxes, says Mr. Wilson, have reached the sum of approximately twenty-five thousand dollars, and the books have only been out for about two months. This, he continues, is considerably better than a forty per cent. increase over the same period a year ago, and collections are holding up good, with the best period of time yet to come.

Along with the new taxes, Mr. Wilson states that citizens are responding equally well in the payment of back taxes. Many people, he says,

Pays Subscription Five Years Hence

Marion Thomas of Mabel renewed his subscription the other day, which in itself does not exactly constitute news, but since he renewed for five years at one time, it sets something of a record on the local circulation list.

Mr. Thomas explained he wanted to be paid up for some time just in case "something might happen," and if nothing does happen to the publisher or the subscriber, the latter needn't notice the date on his label until way up in 1940. Incidentally our good friend believes the Democrat is something of a standard of excellence in country journalism, and his unusual regard for the county paper is one of its very valuable assets.

ASHE MAN FIGURES IN DYNAMITE PLOT

Charles Spicer's Home Is Blasted As Aftermath of Political Feud.

Attorney Ira T. Johnston of West Jefferson, in town Tuesday, brings word that Charles Spicer, practicing attorney, of Harlan, Ky., and former Ashe citizen, escaped uninjured when his house was dynamited as an aftermath to the recent bomb-slaying of a Kentucky solicitor in connection with a political feud.

Spicer, it is said, was engaged to prosecute suspects in connection with the fatal dynamiting of the solicitor's car, and had received several threatening anonymous letters in connection with his activities. Sunday night a charge of high explosives wrecked his home, tore the porch away, and splintered much of the furniture. The family was sleeping in a part of the building where the blast was least severe and escaped injury. After the explosion it was recalled that a light report was first heard, presumably for the purpose of drawing Spicer onto his porch. He would have had about time to reach this point when the veranda was demolished.

A brother-in-law, Attorney W. B. Austin, of West Jefferson, has gone to Kentucky to assist in the investigation of the blasting.

FOURTH SECTION SCENIC PARKWAY ROUTE IS DEEDED

Title is Passed to Federal Government for Near 10 Miles of Right of Way.

TAX CONTROVERSY RAGES WITH MAXWELL, M'DONALD

Lethal Gas Chamber is Completed; Ehringhaus Strikes Back At Dickinson; Weekly Review of News of the State.

By M. R. DUNNAGAN (Special Democrat Correspondent.)

Raleigh, Dec. 2.—The fourth section, or section D of the Skyline parkway between the Great Smoky Mountains and the Shenandoah National Park in Virginia has been turned over to the Federal government by the State Highway and Public Works Commission, title having passed for the nearly 10 miles Thursday, Charles Ross, general counsel for the commission, announces.

Section D starts on N. C. Route 18 near Laurel Springs, Alleghany county, passes through the corner of Wilkes and goes into Ashe county at Horse Gap and near Glendale Springs. The next section, Section E, will be a longer route and will be divided into two projects, going into Watauga County near Route 60. This is to be deeded soon, along with a 30-mile section in the Mt. Mitchell area and a 10-mile section in the Soco Gap area.

The first four sections from the Virginia line, for which title had been passed, makes about 35 miles, the Mt. Mitchell section and the Soco Gap section are all expected to be under construction by spring. These roads will connect with existing state highways so as to make it possible to traverse the entire parkway when they are completed. The other sections will follow as rapidly as title can be secured and turned over.

TAX CONTROVERSY

The tax controversy between Commissioner of Revenue A. J. Maxwell and Dr. Ralph McDonald, candidate for Governor, rages on, and may be expected to continue until Dr. McDonald ends it, and that is not likely, since it is well-known that Commissioner Maxwell, regarded as a tax expert, if there is one in the state, glories in a tax squabble, especially through the press.

Mr. Maxwell issued a statement last week tending to show that North Carolina has the lowest property tax of the 48 states, and the highest corporation income and franchise of all the states, except Oregon. Dr. McDonald answered him and asked why he (Continued on Page 3)

ROLL CALL MEETING AT HOLY CROSS CHURCH

Holy Cross Church, Valle Crucis, Rev. E. D. Butt, Rector, will hold its annual roll call meeting Sunday, December 8. Services will be in the church at 10:30 a. m., followed by dinner and meeting in the school dining hall.

All members of the church are urged to be present.

URGES MAILING OF XMAS PARCELS

Local Postoffice Would Like To Expedite Handling Of Holiday Mails.

Postmaster W. G. Hartzog and all employees of the local postoffice are anxious that the public co-operate this year during the holidays rush by doing their Christmas mailing early, so that a uniformly satisfactory service may be rendered. The rush of the last few days before Christmas taxes both the space in the postoffice and the capacity of the workers and the proper sort of public co-operation would be of great benefit.

All mail should be posted for Christmas delivery as early as possible, it is said, and a few simple directions are cited, as improperly addressed mail tends to slow up the service.

Full postage should be paid on all letters, as mail is delayed if sent postage due. Printed Christmas greetings, with no writing other than the signature may be mailed for one and a half cents if not sealed, if sealed the three cents an ounce rate prevails. Greetings on post cards may be sent for one cent each. All packages should be plainly addressed on one side of the parcel and should bear the return address of the sender.

To build up the supply of good milk in Gaston county, members of the Jersey Breeders Association are buying pure bred cows from various sections.

MINE LABOR MOVE



The eyes of labor are focused on John L. Lewis, president of the United Mine Workers, who resigned suddenly as vice-president of the American Federation of Labor. Lewis will keep his union within the Federation, it is said, but will continue his fight for industrial form of union.

FUNERAL IS HELD FOR ELLIS MOODY

Suicide of Cove Creek Man Said to Have Resulted From Land Trade.

Funeral services were conducted Friday from the Cove Creek Baptist Church for Ellis Moody, 55-year-old resident of that section, who was officially adjudged a suicide, following the finding of his bullet-scarred body in his home Wednesday afternoon. Reverends Fletcher, Canipe and Parker took part in the obsequies, which were attended by a large number of friends and acquaintances and interment was in the nearby cemetery.

No one was at home when the tragedy occurred. Mrs. Moody, returning at about 1 o'clock, found the house locked, and forced entrance to the building. When she reached the kitchen she found the body of her husband slumped in a chair, the bullet from a .32-caliber rifle having entered the head. Mr. Moody was seated by a table and figures on a sheet of paper led to the belief that worry over a recent land trade had prompted his action.

Was Prominent Man

Mr. Moody was a native of the Beaver Dam section, and a farmer by occupation, achieving unusual success. He was a member of the Baptist Church and faithful in his allegiance. During his residence on Beaver Dam he was Sunday School superintendent and choir leader. He was quiet, unassuming, and known as a model citizen. News of his tragic death brought great sorrow.

Surviving is the widow, who is a sister to Mr. Smith Hagman and one son, Hugh Moody.

"MISS COVE CREEK" IS CHOSEN FROM BIG GROUP

Miss Reba Trivett, a member of the Freshman class at the Cove Creek High School, was crowned "Miss Cove Creek" at a beauty pageant sponsored at the school recently by the Y. W. C. A. Miss Trivett was entered by the Valle Crucis Co., and is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Trivett, of Beach Creek.

Miss Virginia Mast was a close second in the contest which was well attended and in which there were thirty-five entrants.

CHRISTMAS SEAL DRIVE IS BEGUN

Mrs. S. F. Horton Forms Organization in Campaign For Health.

The annual sale of Christmas seals, sponsored by the State Tuberculosis Association, is now under way in Watauga county and will continue until Christmas. Mrs. S. F. Horton, of Sugar Grove, has been chosen chairman and is being assisted in the work by Mrs. G. K. Moose of Boone, Mrs. D. P. Mast, of Blowing Rock, Mrs. Emma Taylor, of Valle Crucis, and Mrs. Stanley Harris, of Amantia.

Mrs. Horton is particularly anxious that a large number of the seals be disposed of this year since 75 per cent. of the funds remain in the county for holding of clinics and other tuberculosis work.

The importance of the nation-wide movement is reflected in the usual activities of the State Association. It aids in securing sanitoriums, preventorium, features health education and employed a health director for four years, established public health nursing and education, furnished x-ray machine and equipment, milk bottling plant and seven thousand dollars to pay for treatment for ex-service men while Uncle Sam was getting in action—all at State Sanitorium. \$52,000 has been spent for health work among Negroes.

These are a few examples. When you buy Christmas seals you are co-operating in this work and helping to make it permanent.

MUNICIPALITY IS MAKING STRIDES ON STREET WORK

Resolution Passed to Improve Howard Street. Asked By Property Owners.

SMALL ASSESSMENT PAYS SPONSORS PART OF WPA

Mayor Asks That People Co-operate in Having Modern System of Streets. Board to Pass Resolutions on Petition.

The Board of Aldermen in session Friday evening passed a resolution authorizing the improvement of Howard Street, on request of the abutting property owners, the action being made possible by the co-operation of the people along the street. A large per cent. of the residents most directly concerned agreed to the payment of a 15 cent per lineal foot street assessment, to help the town raise the sponsor's part of the WPA money.

Other streets in town are to be improved and following the meeting Mayor W. H. Gragg released the following statement:

"Our street improvement program has been made possible through the able and untiring efforts of Jim Rivers, district WPA Director, and United States government funds. However, it is necessary that the city, as sponsors of this project, contribute more than five thousand dollars. The town board is anxious to rebuild just as many of the streets as possible, and we earnestly request those interested in substantial and permanent repairs to the streets that they petition the board to that effect, that the necessary resolutions may be passed. We also ask the immediate signing of street assessment petitions now being circulated in town, and that you appear at the city hall immediately and pay the small fee of 15 cents per lineal foot.

"We are receiving fine co-operation from all those in authority in connection with the project. The foreman and all laborers are doing fine work and with the whole-hearted co-operation of the people of the town, we feel that we are going to be able to secure a permanent and adequate system of improved streets. "Allow us to again insist that you co-operate at this time. It is our best and only opportunity to carry on a permanent street improvement program."

Mary Ann Bumgarner Dies In N. Wilkesboro

Mrs. Mary Ann Bumgarner, 84-year-old former resident of Watauga county, died at North Wilkesboro Friday, and funeral services were conducted from the Three Forks Baptist Church Sunday by Rev. E. C. Hodges. Interment was in the Brown cemetery on the Jefferson road.

Mrs. Bumgarner was well-known and popular in this county where a number of her children reside. Those surviving are: Mrs. G. W. Hayes, George, Hill and Spencer Bumgarner of Boone; Calvin Bumgarner of White Hall, Mont.; Mrs. C. C. Church, North Wilkesboro; and Lafayette Bumgarner of Millersburg, Ohio, 36 grandchildren and 19 great grandchildren also survive.

Henry Britt of Tarboro has a pure bred Rhode Island Red made for which he has been offered \$300 and has sold several cockerels at \$20 each.

O. A. Costner of Lincoln county, has planted five acres of alfalfa this fall and reports harvesting the best lespedeza hay in several seasons.

Christmas
 is on the way and now is the time for business men to push the sales of their holiday merchandise. The Democrat offers the cheapest and most effective means of reaching the people of this county, and indications are that its columns are to be used more freely for the holidays this year than for a long, long time.
 Our next issue will be crowded with Christmas messages from the merchants of Boone, and the publishers elicit the usual co-operation in getting much of the advertising in type during the latter part of this week, in order that the extra work may not delay publication. Cuts in variety and Christmas decorations abound in our big advertising service, and are furnished without cost. Call 12 for help in planning your holiday advertising program.