

SQUIRRELS westward ho
The gray squirrels are migrating again from New England. Nobody has yet found out the real reason why so many thousands, perhaps millions, of these little animals go westward in the early winter. They have lately been crossing the Hudson River over the bridges, on the ferry boats and some of them even swimming across.

The latest theory is that they are driven out of their old homes by the smaller but more pugnacious red squirrels. Farmers and hunters have been encouraged to kill hawks, because hawks kill game birds; but hawks also are fond of baby red squirrels, and a possible explanation is that the red squirrels have multiplied, as the hawks have diminished in number, and there isn't room in the woods for both the red and the gray squirrels.

It is just one of those interesting phenomena illustrating the constant effort of nature to maintain the balance between all the various forms of life.

TAXES plain figures
I asked five intelligent people at a social gathering the other night if they knew how much they paid in taxes to the Federal government on each package of cigarettes. Nobody knew the answer. The revenue stamp on the cigarette pack simply says "20 cigarettes" and does not disclose the fact that the manufacturer pays six cents for each stamp and adds it to the price of the cigarettes.

I think it would be a very useful law, if Congress could be induced to enact it, to require that every tax stamp tells the buyer of the taxed article just how much tax he is paying. We will never get real economy in government until the "man in the street" realizes that he, too, is paying a share of the cost of the government.

QUALITY pays
One of the wealthiest men I know is Herbert L. Satterlee, brother-in-law of J. P. Morgan. Mr. Satterlee is still using an automobile which was built for him in 1915. The 20-year-old car has gone over 300,000,000 miles and is capable of 60 miles an hour in a pinch. Mr. Satterlee tried one or two high-priced modern cars and discarded them because they were not as comfortable to ride in as the old machine that he sticks to.

Wealthy people can afford to be unfashionable. They can also afford to buy the highest quality of goods in the first place. I know one millionaire who has worn the same overcoat for 20 winters, but he paid \$300 for it when it was new. I have spent more than that for a succession of overcoats in the same period. In the long run, it always pays to buy the highest quality of any commodity, if you can afford to tie up enough of your capital in the initial purchase.

FINGERPRINTS accurate
One of the reasons why there is a popular prejudice against being fingerprinted was disclosed the other day when the Bureau of Criminal Investigation, in Washington, reported that several hundred former criminals had been detected by a comparison of the fingerprints, taken when they applied for jobs, with the fingerprint records of convicted criminals on file in Washington. Many business concerns and some municipalities and states now require a fingerprint record of every applicant for a job, and send these records down to the Department of Justice.

I have long believed that the time would come when everybody's fingerprints would be recorded in infancy as a matter of course and kept available for identification at any time in later life. There is no good reason why this should not be done.

LONGEVITY but why?
An eminent scientist, Dr. William Maria Malisoff, predicted the other day that scientific research would find ways of lengthening human life until men might ordinarily live for possibly hundreds of years. In view of what has already been achieved in this direction, that does not seem to me at all impossible.

Mere longevity, however, does not seem to me of any great value, either to the individual or to society, unless some way is found at the same time of utilizing intelligently the experience which only the passage of years enables one to accumulate. It is interesting to imagine a world in which the majority of inhabitants were centenarians. It would, at least, be a world in which fewer futile social experiments were undertaken.

SENATOR IS DEAD

Senator Thomas D. Schall, Republican, of Minnesota, died Sunday in a Washington hospital, the victim of a traffic accident.

An automobile struck him down last Thursday as he was led across a highway near his home in Maryland. His sturdy physique was unable to battle off the shock of a fractured skull, internal injuries and a broken leg.



GRAHAM FAVORS EXTRA SESSION STATE ASSEMBLY

Candidate For Governor Thinks Legislature Should Again Assemble.

SOCIAL SECURITY AND LIQUOR, HIS REASONS

Lieutenant Governor Thinks Security Legislation Imperative and Says Liquor Laws Scrambled At Present.

Charlotte, Dec. 25.—Lieut. Governor A. H. Graham, campaigning for the governor's chair, is on record for a special session of the legislature to enact a state alcoholic control measure, social security legislation and repeal the sales tax on essential foods.

"It is my mature opinion that the governor should call a special session of the legislature for the purpose of enacting security legislation which will meet the federal requirements and thus save for our working people of North Carolina almost two million dollars that will be paid by the state into the federal treasury during the coming year," asserted Graham in an address to the annual dinner of the Carolina branch, associated general contractors.

Turning to the question of liquor control, the Lieut. Governor described the state's present laws as "scrambled."

"I believe," he continued, "that a majority of the members of the present general assembly, if called into special session, would support a plan for setting up a state alcoholic control authority which would operate alcoholic control stores in those counties wherein a majority of the voters had expressed themselves as favoring this plan."

"And in fairness the plan should provide for a division of profits on an equitable basis between the state, the county, and the city."

Graham expressed belief the sales tax should be removed from restaurant and hotel meals and from essential foods. He said increasing state revenue would warrant the removal of the tax from these items.

Methodist Children's Home Given \$10,000 For Building

Winston-Salem, Dec. 25.—The gift of \$10,000 by Mrs. L. E. Brown, of Washaw, for the construction of a community building at the Methodist Children's home here was announced today following a meeting of the executive committee of the board of directors at the orphanage.

Tentative plans for construction have been approved by Mrs. Brown and work is expected to get under way early in February. The building will contain on the main floor a reading and social recreation room, a kitchenette and stack room for books. Beneath the main floor but on the ground will be a room providing for Boy Scout activities. The building also will contain heating and plumbing equipment.

JACKSON DINNERS

Raleigh, Dec. 25.—Jackson day dinners to be held all over the state and nation on January 5 will take the form of general Democratic rallies and will not be limited to members of Young Democratic clubs, although the dinners will be staged under the direction of officers of the Young Democratic organization.

Senator J. W. Bailey announced last night that former Representative E. C. Brooks Jr., of Durham, had been designated by the national Democratic committee as co-ordinator for North Carolina in the Jackson day dinner arrangements.

BOY OF 19 GETS HIS 20th ROAD SENTENCE

Wilson.—Jimmy Pittman, 19, will spend Christmas in a familiar spot.

Since he was eight years old he has been arrested 23 times here, convicted and sentenced 19 times, and now he faces 15 months "on the road."

Judge E. H. Cranmer, trying Jimmy for storebreaking, said the 60-day sentences with which Jimmy has known well in the last 11 years were not long enough.



The Watauga Democrat finds particular pleasure at this Christmas time in reviewing the friendly associations it has enjoyed with the people of this section during the past twelve months. Our patrons have enabled us to enjoy an increased measure of success, and to them a heart-felt appreciation is manifested for their support, and for the hearty good-fellowship which accompanied it. To our patrons, and friends, and those whose closer friendship we hope to accomplish—to everyone who has shown a friendly feeling, or passed a kindly word—your county newspaper extends season's greetings, and looks forward to many more years of friendship. During the New Year may you enjoy a continuous spirit of happiness, a full measure of success and contentment, and an abundance of all that will add to your comfort.

MOORE CHILD IS STRUCK BY AUTO

Seven-Year-Old Boone Girl Suffers Serious Injury. In Charlotte Hospital.

Little Miss Margaret Moore, seven-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. F. C. Moore of Boone, was seriously injured in an automobile accident near the Advent Church Friday afternoon. Mr. Dell Richardson was driving the automobile, and avers that the child ran into the side of the car, inflicting serious facial injuries and breaking one leg above the knee.

The popular child was rushed to a Charlotte hospital where it is believed a complete recovery can be effected.

Understanding is that the accident was unavoidable.

WASHINGTON BLAMED FOR RELIEF MUDDLE

Raleigh.—Congressman Walter Lambeth was applauded at a meeting of Federal agencies in the state when he asserted that the Federal relief program in North Carolina is "bogging down because of inflexible conditions imposed by Washington."

Urging that greater discretion be placed in the hands of local administrators of the various agencies, he said, though he hailed from North Carolina, he might be a congressman "from Missouri" at the next session unless some things are changed.

KNOX SEES SOCIALISM IN ALL OF ROOSEVELT'S ACTS

Joliet, Ill., Dec. 25.—Col. Frank Knox today charged the administration with attempting to destroy private enterprise in order to establish a socialistic state.

A gathering of Republicans heard the Chicago publisher assail the new deal; then adopted a resolution endorsing him for their party's presidential nomination.

"I think the new dealers have a definite objective—the realization in whole of the socialist dream," Colonel Knox said.

COLD WEATHER

A story, which gives an idea of the intensity of the cold wave last week comes from down the river. A man crossed the river in a boat late Friday afternoon, and early Saturday morning walked across on the ice at the same place. And, that is respectfully submitted as big-scale refrigeration, speedily accomplished.

Dependent Families Are Causing Concern

Raleigh.—Mrs. Thomas O'Berry, state relief administrator, asserted today in a prepared statement that as a result of present work relief regulations and the scarcity of private employment, the basic needs of 30,000 to 40,000 families and individuals for whom no provision has been made will present a serious problem in North Carolina.

Informed that appeals would be futile, neither Governor Ehringhaus nor Mrs. O'Berry has requested further relief funds from the federal government since the "dole" was suspended December 7.

Recognizing a widespread need for relief in this state, Mrs. O'Berry said she and the governor have informed Washington of the serious situation.

However, the statement said, before the final grant of \$500,000 in federal relief funds was made for the purpose of liquidating the N.C. ERA, Governor Ehringhaus was required to sign a certificate waiving any further requests for funds.

SUB-ZERO SQUALL STRIKES WATAUGA

Frigid Wave Brings Brief Halt to Heaviest Holiday Buying in Years.

Watauga county came in for its share of the backwash of a general storm which swept the nation last week and took a toll of more than a dozen lives. Friday morning the thermometer reading at the weather station at the College was five below zero, and snow and high winds accompanied the severe freeze.

Saturday plumbers' crews were busy throughout the day thawing and repairing frozen pipes, and Christmas shoppers in large numbers did not appear on the streets of Boone until afternoon.

The intense cold brought a slight lull in what is believed to be the heaviest holiday buying in recent years, and will intensify the last-minute rush in the local shops. Stores will be open both Monday and Tuesday nights in an effort to fill the wants of the late shoppers.

Only 87 persons out of 3,670 who have tobacco adjustment contracts in Columbus county have so far failed to sign for the new program. This is a sign-up of 97 1/2 per cent., reports the county agent.

REV. ALEX WILSON SUCCUMBS SUNDAY

Prominent Baptist Divine Fails to Rally From Long Period of Illness.

Rev. L. A. Wilson, aged 74, prominent resident of the Meat Camp section, and leading minister in the Baptist Church, died at his home Sunday, after an illness of long duration.

Funeral services were conducted from the Meat Camp Baptist Church Monday by the Rev. J. C. Canipe and interment was in the neighboring cemetery.

Survivors include the widow, and the following children: John, Leonard, Grady and Sidney Wilson, Messames Linney Greene, Carl Ragan, Grover, Winebarger and Orin Steverson, all residents of Watauga county. One brother, Rev. L. C. Wilson, of Beaver Dam, survives, and one half brother, Frank Main, Damascus.

Mr. Wilson was the son of the late Lemuel Wilson, who died while doing service in the Confederate army during the Civil War. He was born and was reared in Watauga county, where he entered the Baptist ministry more than 44 years ago. He was pastor of most of the churches in the county, and preached at intervals in adjoining counties. He was an able and consecrated preacher of the Gospel, and occupied a high place in the esteem of the people of this section. He interspersed his ministerial duties with agricultural work, and was a leading force in his community, a kind neighbor, and citizen of rare worth to his county, state and nation.

CAROLINA STORES ARE NOW DIXIE STORES

The signs in front of the old Carolina Stores are now being changed to read Dixie Stores here and twelve other stores in this district. Mr. C. J. Benfield, of Drexell, will continue as active supervisor of all the stores in this district which includes Lenoir, Morganton, Granite Falls, Blowing Rock, Boone, Shelby, Rutherfordton and Valdese.

DEMOCRAT CLOSES MONDAY

The Democrat office closes Monday evening for a Christmas holiday, and won't be reopened before Friday. Since no other complete holidays are observed by the county paper during the year, it is felt that there will be no unfavorable reaction on account of this suspension in service.

SEEK BIG AMOUNT SCENIC PARKWAY DURING NEW YEAR

Expectations Are That Six To Seven Million To Go On Road Next Year.

SEE FOUR HUNDRED MILES BEING BUILT BY END 1936

Exceedingly Favorable Bids Causes High Mileage to Result From First Allotment. Mountain Sections to Come.

Washington, Dec. 25.—The National Park service said today it expected to spend \$5,000,000 to \$7,000,000 next year for new construction on the Shenandoah-Great Smoky parkway.

The parkway was begun this year with an initial \$6,000,000 outlay. If the second installment on the scenic highway connecting the Virginia and North Carolina national parks, builds as much as the first, 400 miles of the 500-mile parkway would be completed or in advanced construction by the end of the 1936-37 fiscal year.

Park service officials, said with the "exceedingly favorable bids submitted on the first links, 200 miles of the parkway will be built with the initial allotment to the project."

They added, however, that contracts for some of the "more difficult mountain top stretches are yet to be let, especially in North Carolina," and probably will increase the average cost.

Authorities were not inclined to be specific about sources of the new money. They are prohibited from discussing matters subject to approval by the budget bureau.

"We are hopeful of getting the money," was the answer to the question of whether it was expected under the new works program recently discussed by the President.

Construction started in North Carolina several months ago.

MRS. DICKSON DIES IN WINSTON-SALEM FRIDAY

Prof. C. M. Dickson, principal of Bethel High School, was called to Ashe county Saturday on account of the death of a sister-in-law, Mrs. W. O. Dickson, 85, which occurred in Winston-Salem Friday from a recent illness.

Funeral services were to have been conducted from the home and interment at the family graveyard at Siler Creek.

Mrs. Dickson was a daughter of John Blevins, and was reared in Ashe county, where she was held in high regard.

She is survived by the husband and five children.

TRAVEL RUSH

New York, Dec. 25.—Transportation lines over most of the eastern section of the nation were mobilizing everything but the office rocking chair today to handle what is anticipated as the greatest Christmas travel rush in years.

Railroads, steamship companies, air lines and bus companies alike report that every available piece of equipment will be in use over the peak of the holiday rush, expected over this week-end.

Officials of transport lines of all sorts estimate that business will be better from 20 to 45 per cent. than last year.

SAYS BONUS TO BE PAID

Washington, Dec. 25.—Speaker Byrnes said today that he believed both Senate and House would dispose of the cash bonus issue by February 1.

Shortly afterward, Senator Byrnes (D-SC) predicted that the bill he and Senator Steiwer (R-Ore) have introduced for cash payment of the bonus in 1939 would pass at the coming session of congress even if vetoed by President Roosevelt.

Byrnes made his statement at the White House after explaining the provisions of his bill to the president. He would not say whether he thought the measure might meet a presidential veto.

A flock of 235 Rhode Island Red hens returned J. L. Houk of Morganton, Route 2, Burke county, a net profit of \$580.00 above feed costs during the past season.