

# MERRY CHRISTMAS TO EVERYONE

# WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

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**PATENTS . . . . . celebration**  
They have been holding a celebration in Washington for the centennial of the American patent system. I wish I could take time out to attend, for the U. S. patent office was one of my playgrounds when I was a boy and my uncle was commissioner of patents. I learned more, I think, from the exhibits of models of early inventions than I ever learned in school.

Many folks have a wrong idea about patents. They think they are intended to create monopolies. The exact opposite is true. The word "patent" means "to make public." In return for disclosing the secret of his device or process so that anyone can use it, Uncle Sam gives the inventor the sole right to use it for 17 years. After that it is public property.

America is one of the few countries where the owner of a patent does not have to pay an annual tax on it. That is one of the reasons why we are the most inventive people in the world. The other is that we had to invent machines to do our work because we wanted more work done than there were men to do it.

### INVENTIONS . . . . . the public

In 1844, Henry L. Ellsworth, then commissioner of patents, in his annual report to congress, said that the patent office would soon be unnecessary, since there was nothing much left to invent. Just a few of the inventions since then are the telephone, electric light, gas engine, phonograph, airplane, photographic dry plate, motion pictures, radio and about a million and a half other devices for which patents have been issued since Mr. Ellsworth's time.

For years the patent office refused to consider applications for patents on flying machines on the ground that it was impossible for men to fly. They still refuse applications for "perpetual motion" machines unless accompanied by a working model. No inventor has yet produced a model that works.

A patent, however, is no proof that an invention is valuable. The value of any invention depends entirely upon whether it meets a public demand.

### SN . . . . . power

From time immemorial inventors have been trying to find some way of storing the energy of sun heat. In sunny countries it is easy to heat tanks of water by the sun's rays and many patents have been granted on solar engines. Most of these, however, cost so much in proportion to the power generated that it does not pay to build them.

Dr. Charles G. Abbott, secretary of the Smithsonian Institute of Washington, however, has solved the problem. At the patent centennial he showed an engine run by sunpower which may point the way toward conservation of fuel when the earth's supplies of coal and oil are exhausted.

Nothing could be more useful than costless power. I hope Dr. Abbott is on the right track.

### GLARE . . . . . under control

One of the most promising of the new inventions shown at the patent centennial is a method of taking the glare out of automobile headlights. Scientists have long known that light can be "polarized"—that is, so reflected that the light beams are parallel and go in one direction only. But all previous methods of doing this have been too expensive and cumbersome for general use.

The new device is the result of years of work in two great industrial research laboratories. It is a simple transparent sheet of a new kind of material which can be used instead of glass in motor headlights, and will project their beams in a straight line ahead instead of into the eyes of approaching drivers.

This one invention alone, when it comes into general use, will be worth untold money for its value as a preventer of motor accidents.

### SOUND . . . . . death ray

Another amazing new thing is a device which produces sound waves at a pitch too high for the human ear to detect. These vibrations or "ultrasonic" sounds have remarkable powers of penetration and can even cause death. Dr. R. W. Wood of Johns Hopkins laboratory, who developed them, showed how passing these ultrasonic waves through a tank of water would kill all the fish in the water. That suggests a possible use in killing the larvae of mosquitoes in their breeding places.

Amazing new industrial compounds can also be found by these waves. Oil can be mixed with water, and powdered coal which has been suspended in water is consolidated into a solid lump by means of the new vi-

## STATE MANAGED LIQUOR SYSTEM IS RECOMMENDED

**Commission Proposes County Elections on Whiskey Sales; Rum Would Be Sold at County Operated Stores in Package Form**

Raleigh, Dec. 20.—The liquor study commission recommended today that North Carolina have a state-supervised alcoholic control system composed of county-operated stores for sale of original package goods, with sale of whiskey by the drink prohibited.

A model bill bearing approval of four of the seven members of the commission was included in the report, permitting each county desiring to do so to hold an election on the liquor question and providing that the state should get 20% of the net profits of the stores with the counties getting 80%.

Three members of the commission, L. R. Varner of Lumberton, Chas. A. Hines of Greensboro, and John Robinson of Charlotte, proposed that the bill require a state-wide referendum on the liquor question and that in case of defeat of the proposal for county stores the present Pasquotank and New Hanover laws, under which stores operate in 18 counties, would be repealed automatically.

Victor S. Bryant of Durham, chairman, along with Thos. W. Raoul of Asheville, Donnell Gilliam of Tarboro, and R. F. Beasley of Monroe, approved the county option law.

The proposed state liquor board would consist of a chairman, to be paid \$6,000 a year for full-time work, and two associate members to get \$25 per day for days actually worked. The members would be appointed by the governor, for three-year terms after the first year, and would serve three, two and one year terms respectively.

The state board would have the veto power over practically all action of the county boards, being empowered to supervise the local unit stores, fix prices, remove board members, supervise purchasing by county stores, fix opening and closing hours, approve or disapprove salaries of county board members, and limit the number of stores in a county beyond one at the county seat.

No manufacture of alcoholic beverages having more than five per cent alcoholic content by weight would be permitted in the state but beer up to five per cent content and "natural wines" could be made.

County stores would not be allowed to advertise, and no radio broadcast with matter in it tending to advertise beverages with more than five per cent alcoholic content would be allowed.

All salaries and expenses incurred under the liquor act would come from the proceeds of sales of alcoholic beverages. All receipts would go into general state and county funds.

## LICENSE PLATE SALES AHEAD OF LAST YEAR

The sale of license plates on the opening days of sale have run about 50% ahead of a year ago. Those who buy plates ahead of the last few days before January 1st save themselves the great inconvenience of standing in line for hours waiting to be served. Forty thousand more vehicles have now to be licensed than in any former year, meaning a greater jam if motorists wait for the last rush.

It is now a well understood policy that no extension of time is given for use of old license plates on streets and highways on or after January 1st.

The co-operation of motorists will be greatly appreciated.

## WATAUGA GIVEN BIG SUM FROM NEW DEAL

Seven North Carolina counties this year had received well over \$1,000,000 in cash as a result of new deal legislation, according to official figures released this week.

The grand total received by the state through the agricultural adjustment administration from May 12, 1933, to July 1, 1936, is \$32,428,101.63 in rental and benefit payments.

Watauga and surrounding counties received the following:

Watauga, \$10,732.47; Ashe, \$18,132.90; Wilkes, \$33,220.83.

This is still a scientific discovery, which needs to be adopted to practical use before it classes as an invention.

## GREETINGS OF THE SEASON



In this period of the glad Yuletide, as The Democrat pauses for a brief period in its usual labors, the publisher deems it a privilege to extend the greetings of the season to its loyal friends, and to wish for them all the pleasures of the season.

The labors of the year have brought to us pleasure and satisfaction . . . pleasure in having been able to serve the community and the county, and satisfaction in that our services have met with the approval of our friends.

We thank each and every one for their contribution to our success and wish for them a Christmas filled with merriment, and a New Year of joy, happiness and prosperity.

## TILLMAN ADAMS IS DEAD AT AGE OF 78

**One of County's Most Prominent Citizens Succumbs to Protracted Illness**

Tillman Adams, well known and esteemed citizen of Vilas R. F. D., died at his home Friday morning, after a period of failing health covering a period of almost a year. Mr. Adams was nearly 78 years old.

Funeral services were conducted Saturday at 11 o'clock from the Brushy Fork Baptist church by the Reverend W. D. Ashley and interment was in the Ward graveyard nearby.

Surviving are one son and one daughter: Arthur Adams, Vilas; Mrs. General Hodges, Hodges Gap; two brothers, Amos and Enoch Adams of Vilas; two sisters, Mesdames Hannah Ragan of Elizabethton, and Violet Greene of Vilas.

Mr. Adams was born and was reared in the community in which he died. He was the son of David and Mary Adams. He was a devout member of the Baptist church. He was first married to Miss Nancy Trivett, daughter of Elijah Trivett, who died more than 30 years ago. Later he was married to Miss Alberta Bradley, who succumbed ten years ago.

Mr. Adams was a farmer by occupation and succeeded in his avocation. He was one of the county's most substantial citizens, a leader in constructive community thought and action, a good neighbor, a kind husband and father, and an exponent of all those things which would be of benefit to the community.

(Continued on page 8.)

## REPORT THAT COLLEGE PAPER TO QUIT, DENIED

Mr. Eugene Wike, editor of the Appalachian, student publication at Appalachian College, tells The Democrat that there is a current report that his publication will be discontinued following the Christmas holidays.

Mr. Wike states that if there is any change in the publication of the Appalachian, it will be from a weekly to a daily, and that there is absolutely no foundation in fact for the report which has been heard.

## REPORTS BIG INCOME FROM TOBACCO CROP

Mr. W. D. James, prosperous farmer of Sugar Grove, tells The Democrat that from less than an acre seeded to burley tobacco, he has sold weed to the amount of \$434. The tobacco was sold to a dealer, and resold on the Abingdon market.

Mr. James states that from the remainder of his crop, something like two acres, his receipts will be considerably more than \$800.

## DEER HUNTERS HOST TO NUMBER OF FRIENDS

Messrs. Ab Mullins, Arthur Hamby and Pat McGuire were hosts to sixty men of the town Friday evening at the Daniel Boone hotel. A venison supper, with all the trimmings, was greatly enjoyed by the invited guests, the gentlemen having recently returned from Morehead City with three fine bucks at the close of a four days' hunting trip. The hospitality of the gentlemen was greatly appreciated.

## N. C. SECURITY ACT IS PLACED IN FORCE

**State Unemployment Compensation Law Approved by Federal Government**

Raleigh, Dec. 20.—North Carolina's unemployment compensation law, approved by the federal government yesterday, provides for an annual state tax on the pay rolls of some 8,000 employers in order that their 350,000 workers may be more "socially secure."

Within the next few days, the state unemployment compensation commission, created by the act passed by the recent special session of the general assembly, will begin collecting a 9 per cent levy on the 1936 pay rolls of most employers of eight or more persons. The tax will increase to 1.8 per cent in 1938 and all subsequent years. The levy will go into a fund which, after January 1, 1938, will be used to "tide workers over" when they are unemployed.

Charles G. Powell, secretary of state, will be sworn in, possibly early this week, as chairman of the compensation commission. He is succeeded as secretary of state by Thad Eure of Winton, who was named to that position in the recent general election. Eure, who would have taken office January 7, accepted an appointment from Governor Ehringhaus to serve out the brief unexpired term.

Mrs. J. B. Spillman of Greenville, will serve with Powell on the commission, as will A. L. Fletcher, state commissioner of labor, an ex-officio member.

The North Carolina compensation (Continued on page 8.)

## CONSTRUCTION ON PARKWAY IS PROGRESSING

**Large Section of Highway Will Likely Be Completed Next Year; Congress Must Provide Additional Funds**

Favorable weather has enabled all of the contractors who have been working on their Blue Ridge Scenic Parkway jobs in this section of the state to make excellent progress. According to reports, all of the contracts in North Carolina are at least up to schedule with some of them considerably ahead of the stage they agreed to reach by this time. With a continuation of weather during which work may be done, all parkway contracts in this state that have been awarded should, it is said, be well along by the end of 1937, with the earlier jobs between the Virginia-North Carolina line nearly completed.

Over 35 miles of the parkway is now under contract from Buck Creek gap in Yancey county past Mt. Mitchell and across the Big Blacks to the end of the Craggies. No more money is on hand, it is understood, for additional contracts. Whether the incoming congress will make further appropriations for the work on the parkway remains to be seen. Since President Roosevelt is known to be very favorable to the completion of the Parkway, there is a widespread impression that large additional sums will be forthcoming in time to permit work on more sections of the project to start next spring. Surveys and estimates of the cost have been made so that many miles could be immediately advertised for bids, if the money was available. Originally started as a work relief project, the parkway is believed by those closest to the undertaking to have been shifted from that basis to one of the major improvements fostered by the administration. If that is the case, work on the parkway will continue uninterrupted. But several years will be required to complete the job.

No estimate has been made public by officials who are informed as to when the parkway might be open to traffic, if funds are provided without delay. Present indications are that no contracts will be let for the sections of the parkway between the vicinity of Linville and the Buck Creek gap for some time to come. Meantime, with the completion of sections already being built, the existing state highways across Avery, Mitchell and Yancey will have to carry greatly increased traffic.

Some sections of these highways are now unsuited for the traffic on them. Local industrial developments along the route will greatly increase the number of cars and trucks using these sections. The state highway and public works commission is said to appreciate this situation and will doubtless take steps to remedy it.

## John Smith, Matney Citizen, Dies at 47

John Edgar Smith, well-known farmer of the Matney community, died Thursday of last week, after a long illness. He was 47 years of age.

Funeral services were conducted Saturday morning from the Liberty Methodist church by Rev. Mr. Murray and Rev. Dwight Edmisten, and interment was in the cemetery nearby.

Surviving are the widow and one son, Heath Smith, one brother, Bill Smith, Matney; two sisters, Mesdames Blanche Michael and Annie Yates of Matney.

## HOLIDAYS BEGIN AT LEES-McRAE COLLEGE

Banner Elk, Dec. 23.—Christmas holidays at Lees-McRae College began at noon Tuesday with the departure of students and faculty for varied destinations. The college will reopen on January 5, and classes will be resumed on the morning of the 6th, according to announcement by Leo K. Pritchett, dean and registrar, before the holidays.

All of the college dormitories are now closed, and will not reopen until January 5.

The first semester examinations will begin on January 19 and end on January 23. On the following Monday the second semester will open.

Mail is carried to outlying islands in the Hawaiian group by fishing sampans under contract with the government.