

The Week in Washington

A RESUME OF GOVERNMENTAL HAPPENINGS IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

Washington, Dec. 30—Nothing is giving the administration more concern than the problem and what to do about unemployment and the relief of the unemployed. With business in most lines almost back to the pre-depression level there are still, according to government estimates, about 8,600,000 persons without jobs. Of these, the WPA is taking care of about 2,400,000.

There are also nearly nine million persons, counting all of the families of the unemployed, who are receiving direct relief from state and local sources. Much of this money comes out of the federal treasury.

The federal government is spending above 165 million dollars a month on WPA wages alone. The problem is, how can this burden of relief expenditures be continued if at the same time federal expenditures in general are to be reduced?

Two Relief Views

There is a decided conflict of opinion as to what ought to be done. On the one hand is the group of relief workers, headed by Harry L. Hopkins, WPA administrator, which holds that relief should be regarded as a permanent policy of the federal government. These folk believe that there is no likelihood that business and industry will ever absorb all the nation's employable citizens, especially since about 600,000 young persons reach the working age every year, adding to the available labor supply.

On the other hand there is a large group which believes the time has come to turn the problem back to the states and their local governments. This view has important support. Mr. Roosevelt is, therefore, under pressure from two sides, each urging upon him a policy diametrically opposed to that of the other.

There are complications, political and otherwise, in the way of either course. A strong lobby has developed, composed of governors of states and mayors of municipalities, who are united in opposing any withdrawal of the federal government from the relief situation. They do not want the responsibility of putting the burden upon their local taxpayers.

Another complication is the attitude of many members of congress, who have found the political patronage of the federal relief organization useful to themselves. Indeed, there is a feeling in Washington that congress may block any attempt on the part of the administration to curtail relief expenditures, and insist upon appropriating more money than the president asks for.

The situation holds the possibility of a row between president and congress, if the president does, as many believe he will, accept the view of those who think it is time to call a halt on federal relief.

National Defense Thought

There is no doubt whatever that official Washington is "jittery" on the subject of war. Although there does not appear to be a war cloud on our national horizon one hears men in high places emphasizing the necessity of strengthening our defenses on land and sea and in the air.

What gives officials here the jitters, seemingly, is the belief that a general European war is impending and that this time the victor will be a nation or combination of nations which have no love for the United States and who will look with covetous eyes upon the opportunity for territorial acquisitions and colonization of surplus populations which the as yet unoccupied parts of North and South America offer.

There may have been more than a goodwill gesture in President Roosevelt's trip to South America. Back of it might have been the feeling that the two Americas needed to stand together against possible aggression from Europe or Asia. If such a situation should ever develop it is likely the United States would have to bear the larger share of the burden when it came to resisting attacks from overseas.

Something of that thought may lie behind the request of Harry Woodring, secretary of war, for authority to recruit the U. S. regular army at once up to its full legal strength of 165,000 enlisted men by January 30, 1937.

Secretary Woodring also proposes to increase the national guard from 139,000 to 210,000, to call 30,000 reserve officers to active duty for two weeks each year instead of the present 20,000, to enlarge the capacity of the citizens military training camps, enlist about 150,000 "specialists" in the army reserve corps, and to rush to completion the army's program of 2,320 fighting airplanes.

The Official Election

The official count of the ballots cast at the presidential election on November 3 has been completed, and the presidential electors have met in their respective states and for-

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WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

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BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1936

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Baby of Congress
All records indicate that Representative Lyle H. Boren, 27, (D) of Oklahoma, will be the youngest member of the new congress which convenes January 5th. Representative Boren celebrates his next birthday May 11th.

AGED BAPTIST DIVINE IS DEAD

Reverend Monroe Gragg Had Preached in Watauga County for Sixty Years

One of the county's prominent pioneer ministers, Rev. Monroe Gragg, well known and esteemed citizen of Blowing Rock, died at his home on Wednesday, December 23, following a period of failing health since April 6. He was 84 years of age.

Funeral services were conducted Thursday at 10 o'clock at the home by Rev. Ed Hodges and Rev. W. D. Ashley. Interment was in the Sims cemetery at Elizabethton, Tenn., with Mr. J. Clyde Kelly, of the Reins-Sturdivant Funeral Home, taking care of the arrangements.

Surviving are the wife, Mrs. Mary Gragg, of Blowing Rock, one son, Joseph Gragg, of Shell Creek, Tenn., and one brother, Albert Gragg, of Junction City, Ky., and 21 grandchildren.

Rev. Mr. Gragg was born in Tennessee and came to North Carolina with his parents when he was but a small boy. He was converted when a young man and joined the Baptist church. He began his study of the ministry very soon and was a loyal minister for 60 years in Watauga county.

He was first married to Rachel Whitehead and to this union were born eight children, three boys and five girls; Mrs. Joe Wagner, Mrs. George Berry, Mrs. D. L. Berry, Debbie Gragg, Harvie Gragg, Roy Gragg and Mrs. Monroe Gragg, all of whom are dead. He was married to Mrs. Minley Gragg on July 7, 1932, who survives.

PRESIDENT'S BALL BEING ARRANGED

Mayor Gragg Appoints Committee to Arrange for Annual Benefit Dance

Mayor W. H. Gragg has announced the appointment of Messrs. Roger McGuire and Gordon Winkler as a committee on arrangements for the President's ball to be held at the Daniel Boone Hotel on January 30th, and specific details as to the annual benefit entertainment will be announced soon.

In referring to the appointment, the mayor asks the co-operation of all the people in making the ball a successful one, and believes there is no better purpose than that for which the proceeds are used.

As usual the proceeds from the affair, which is given on the President's birthday, will be divided between local sufferers from infantile paralysis, and the children who are patients at the Warm Springs institution in Warm Springs, Ga. President Roosevelt, himself a sufferer from the dread malady, established this institution.

Bradley Gets Large Returns For Tobacco

Mr. Grady Bradley of the Brushy Fork section, believes he has set something of a record for a monetary return on a fractional part of an acre seeded to burley tobacco. Mr. Bradley states that on a measured seven-eighths of an acre, he produced tobacco which brought \$800 on the warehouse floor, for an average of 56 cents per pound.

The highest grade tobacco in the load sold for 70 cents; other baskets brought 65, and a small quantity of bad green brought 8½ cents.

The toucar uses its enormous bill as an arm for reaching fruit.

SERIOUSLY HURT AS AXE IS FLUNG IN TUESDAY MORNING

Zeb Harman Merely Not Recover From Injuries Received in Affray in Which Axe and Pistol Figured; Harlie Harman Held in Jail

Zeb V. Harman, well known citizen of the Rush Branch section of Beaver Dam township, is a patient at the Banner Elk hospital, perhaps fatally injured by the blade of a flying axe, flung at him by a neighbor and distant kinsman, Harlie Harman, as the two engaged in an affray at the home of the latter Tuesday afternoon.

The axe blade entered the back just above the left kidney, and physicians were unable to state whether or not the injury would result fatally, pending further developments.

Harlie Harman is being held in jail pending the outcome of his neighbor's injuries.

According to information secured by Sheriff Edminsten, the trouble started between the two men when Zeb Harman shot a dog belonging to Harlie. The wife of the latter, the story goes, came to Zeb's place and made some remarks to him regarding the injury to the canine, at the same time stating that she would like for him to come and get his hog off Harlie's premises. Zeb is alleged to have offered an apology for shooting the dog, stating that he meant to scare it, and proceeded immediately to go in quest of the swine.

When he arrived at Harlie's place, the latter was on the porch and Zeb told him he couldn't see his hog, and is alleged to have received the reply, "If it had been a dog you would have seen it." Zeb is then said to have drawn his knife, and Harlie to have seized an axe, whereupon the knife was replaced and a revolver brought forth. Harlie started with the axe and a round was fired from the revolver without effect, the man with the gun running, his assailant close behind. During the time, it is said, Zeb had an opportunity to hastily reload and fired two or three more shots, one of them barely grazing the thigh of Harlie. As Zeb crossed a fence, however, Harlie flung the axe from a distance of several feet, with the damaging results. He followed the injured man to the "line fence" and returned home. Zeb reached his home and went to bed, where he remained alone for some hours without medical attention. He was given first aid treatment by Dr. King, county health officer, and removed at once by the sheriff to the hospital.

The injured man is known as one of the outstanding men of his community, while Harlie is also said to be a substantial citizen. There are evidences that there had been a grudge between the two in years past, but understanding is that recently they had been living as good and friendly neighbors.

Sheriff Edminsten says there is no disposition on the part of either of them to shun any of the facts in the case and that the story of the affray is told in substantially the same form by each one.

MOODY INFANT DIES

An infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Moody of Blowing Rock, died Monday night, and funeral services were conducted from the home Tuesday. Interment was in the vicinity of Sugar Grove.

SERIOUSLY HURT IN FALL ON ICE

J. S. Winkler Returns From Statesville; Had Arm and Shoulder Fractured

Mr. Joseph S. Winkler, well known citizen, a member of the personnel at the Harrison Chevrolet plant, returned Sunday from a Statesville hospital where he had been for treatment on account of serious injuries sustained when he fell on the ice the first part of last week.

Mr. Winkler was looking after feeding some cattle on his farm near Boone, when his feet slipped on an icy surface, breaking his right arm at two places and crushing the shoulder.

Mr. Winkler is resting as comfortably as could be expected and physicians believe that he should show a reasonably early recovery.

Winter Weather Causes Partial Shutdown; Much of Grading Completed

Several contractors on the six sections of the Blue Ridge Parkway in Alleghany, Wilkes, Ashe and Watauga counties have suspended work during the winter season.

Four snows have already fallen on the summit of the Blue Ridge where the cross-country boulevard is under construction and contractors deemed it wise to suspend operations for a period of two months.

About 80 per cent of the grading has been completed from the Carolina-Virginia line to a point near Deep Gap on the Boone Trail between Boone and North Wilkesboro, a distance of about 60 miles.

The biggest task now facing the contractors is crushed stone surfacing, which is covered in the contract calling for grading.

S. M. Glenn Killed In Missoula, Mont.

Friends and members of the family are grieved to learn of the death of Mr. S. M. Glenn, of Missoula, Montana, who is a native of Watauga county and the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Glenn, of Sugar Grove. Returning home from work Monday morning Mr. Glenn was struck and instantly killed by an oncoming train.

Mr. Glenn is survived by his widow and four children, Miss Carolyn Glenn, Miss Jean Glenn, a married daughter, and Mr. Arnold Glenn, all of Missoula, Mont.

SUSPEND WORK ON PARKWAY

Winter weather causes partial shutdown; Much of Grading Completed

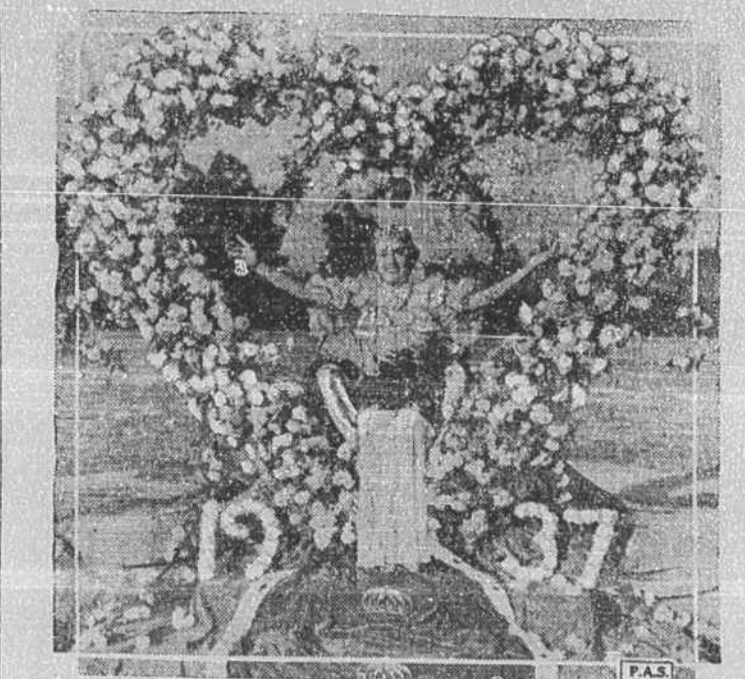
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ALL READY TO GREET THE NEW YEAR



Above is pictured but one of America's queens who will greet the New Year—this one, however, from a throne of roses. Miss Nancy Bumpus, college junior of Pasadena, Calif., will rule the realm in the annual tournament of roses at Pasadena on New Year's day.

CHRISTMAS QUIET ABOUT THE TOWN

Springtime Weather Pervades This Section Christmas; Little Disorder

Boone began bright and early Monday morning to resume its usual routine after having enjoyed a holiday season, which for happiness and quietude was seldom excelled in the community.

Christmas day the weather was bright and sunny as May, and residents of the town for the most part stayed around their respective premises and observed the Christmas holiday in a sane and happy fashion.

Police records indicate that there was little of disorderliness, and the arrests for drunkenness during Christmas and over the week-end were below those reported for many previous week-ends, in which no holiday figured.

Saturday the business houses of the town enjoyed a holiday, many made trips to other points, while the balmy weather continued, and there was little activity about town.

The first days of the past week, the streets of the town were jammed with holiday shoppers, and while but few merchants have made a thorough check-up and comparison of their Christmas trade with a year ago, most of them thought the first of the week that receipts were greater than during any recent holiday shopping season.

OBSCENE MATTER CANNOT BE MAILED

Postmaster Gives Out Warning of Department as to Use of the Mails

Encouraged by the 15-year federal penitentiary sentence meted out to Gayle R. Cleveland of Pensacola, Fla., alias Miss Georgia Clayton and Miss Gayle Cleveland, on charges of sending obscene matter through the mails, the postal inspection service has launched a nation-wide drive on obscene correspondence clubs conducted through the mails, it was announced at the postoffice department recently.

Cleveland was the operator of "The Letter Club Different," one of numerous obscene corresponding clubs, which have for their purpose the mutual exchange of obscene literature, photographs and drawings, and which have been uncovered by postal inspectors in various sections of the country. The Pensacola "Letter Club Different" of Cleveland, was conducted in the same manner as are the other obscene correspondence clubs which are now the subject of a far-flung roundup by federal postal inspection service.

As operator of the "club," Cleveland would insert advertisements in the cheaper magazines offering for a small fee, usually ten cents, to put interested persons in touch with others of either sex who were interested in the exchange of literature and photographs of an obscene nature.

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Fred Norris Burned As Gasoline Ignites

Mr. Fred Norris of the Rutherford section, suffered severe burns Tuesday afternoon when the gasoline from a pipe on a bus caught fire, as he sought to repair the machine.

Mr. Norris, who is a popular driver of a school bus, had completed his day's run from Deep Gap. He had been having some trouble with the bus and had crawled under the machine and loosed a gasoline feed pipe, in an attempt to discover the trouble. The fluid became ignited in some manner, perhaps from the heated exhaust pipe, and Mr. Norris' hands were very seriously burned before he was able to extricate himself. Although he will be unable to resume his duties for some time, it is thought that no permanent injury will result.

To Finish Degree Work at Peabody

At least three local people will leave the last of the week for Peabody College, Nashville, Tenn., where they will be enrolled for the purpose of doing necessary scholastic work toward receiving their degrees.

Prof. J. T. C. Wright of Appalachian College, will remain for eight months, doing his last year's work on his Ph. D. degree, while Misses Lucile Miller and Myrtle Brandon are working on their Master's degree.

WATAUGAN SLAIN IN SUNDAY MELEE; SON-IN-LAW HELD

Dillard Coffey Admits Firing Shot That Killed Raymond Dellinger Following Official Investigation; Occurred on Yonahlossee Road

Raymond Dellinger, 41 years old, was instantly killed Sunday afternoon at his home on the Yonahlossee highway, five miles from Blowing Rock, and a son-in-law, Dillard Coffey, is held in the county jail, having confessed to the firing of the fatal shot.

Sheriff Edminsten, his deputies and County Coroner Richard E. Kelley, upon arriving at the scene of the slaying, found the seven men and four women, who were gathered at the Dellinger home, unwilling to testify as to who fired the shot. Consequently all the men were placed in jail, a guard put about the premises so that none might leave or enter, and an intensive investigation and questioning ensued, which resulted in the confession of Coffey at three o'clock Monday. The prisoner's only reason given the officers for having sent the bullet from a .38 calibre revolver through the breast of his father-in-law, was "because I had been threatened so many times."

George Townsend, one of the seven held during the investigation, supplied the sheriff with the information which finally resulted in the confession. Coffey had gone from the house, onto the porch, it appears, following some words with Dellinger, and it was there the shot was fired.

The sheriff states, as does Mr. Kelley, that reports in the neighborhood were to the effect that bad feeling had existed between the two men for some time, but that there was no evidence of them having been drinking at the time of the homicide. It is said, however, that there were signs of spirituous indulgence among some of the other occupants of the house at the time.

Coffey waived preliminary trial, and will be arraigned at the regular spring term of Watauga Superior court.

Funeral services for Dellinger were conducted at Gragg, N. C., Tuesday afternoon, and interment was in that neighborhood.

Surviving are the widow, one son and four daughters.

Deceased was reared, it is said, in Caldwell county, but had made his home in Watauga for several years.

Rites For Mrs. Lina Coe Held Sunday Afternoon

(Boliver, N. Y.) Breeze)
Funeral services for Mrs. Lina Coe were held at her late home on Plum street in this village at 2 o'clock Sunday afternoon. The Rev. W. N. Mason, pastor of the First Day Baptist church of Richburg, officiated. Miss Leta Crandall sang two selections, accompanied at the piano by Miss Colette Day.

Burial was in the family plot in the Richburg cemetery, the bearers being Floyd Stone, Clair Miller, Henry Funk and James S. Johnston.

Mrs. Coe, who passed away Thursday evening at 7:10 o'clock after a lingering illness, was born April 28, 1880, in Pleasant Valley, town of Wirt, a daughter of Albert and Frances Lawrence. She was united in marriage April 17, 1907, to Lee Coe of Richburg, where they resided a number of years. Mrs. Coe accompanied her husband to North Carolina, where he was employed by the government as instructor in butter and cheese making. While there in Boone, N. C., he passed away Sept. 15, 1920. Mrs. Coe returned to Richburg with his body, making her home there for eight years. She moved to Boliver eight years ago. Mrs. Coe was held in high esteem by those who knew her.

Besides her sister, Miss Vida Lawrence, with whom she had lived in Boliver, she is survived by two brothers, Ivan Lawrence of Allentown, and Carl of New York city; also a nephew and a niece, Neil and Jennie Lawrence, both of Richburg.

BACK FROM HUNTING TRIP

Mr. and Mrs. Frank M. Payne have returned from a ten-day trip to the eastern part of the state. While away, Mr. Payne was on two deer hunts and the party killed two large bucks.

London.—For centuries pepper was the staple article of commerce between Europe and Asia. It was once valued on a par with precious metal.