

WATAUGA FARM DEBTORS MAY BE GIVEN EXTENSION

Paul Chappell of Rural Resettlement Asks Persons Whose Lands Are Likely to Be Foreclosed to Communicate With Him

Mr. Paul Chappell, county supervisor in charge of rural rehabilitation program of the resettlement administration in Watauga and Avery counties, feels that there are farmers in this section in danger of losing their property from foreclosure, or otherwise in distress on account of debt, who could be helped by the farm debt adjustment service which is now a part of the rural rehabilitation program of the resettlement administration.

While thousands of distressed debtors in the nation and hundreds in this state have been helped to clear up their debt entanglements—land and chattel—to the satisfaction of both creditor and debtor, recent studies indicate that there are still those who do not take advantage of the friendly debt conciliation service offered by the resettlement administration," Mr. Chappell said.

"While it is not always possible to save a farm from foreclosure, in many cases, we do," Mr. Chappell continued, "and there is always a good chance that we can be of some assistance. The farm debt adjustment service is available to all farmers in serious difficulty on account of debts and it costs nothing to apply."

All one has to do is to address a postal card, or apply in person, to his nearest county rural rehabilitation supervisor who will talk over the applicant's problems and advise him whether it is possible to assist him. Mr. Chappell's office is located in the Peoples Bank building in Boone.

Mr. Chappell calls attention to the fact that voluntary committees, composed of public-spirited citizens working without pay, other than actual expenses, have been organized in every county to help with this farm debt adjustment service. These committees meet with the debtor and creditor, try to have the debt reduced in accordance with the debtor's ability to pay, or to get the debtor more time in which to pay off the debt, or to find a new creditor.

To work with the rural rehabilitation supervisors and with the county committees, and especially to handle the knottier problems, one or more farm debt specialists have been assigned in each state. These specialists are versed in the problems of debt and the intricacies of refinancing. They are prepared to make a careful study of the more difficult debt problems. Particularly are these specialists called in where there is an emergency situation threatening immediate foreclosure. Mr. T. A. Holcomb is the debt specialist or farm debt adjustment supervisor, as he is technically called, covering this and several adjoining counties.

Christmas Seal Sale Nets Nice Amount

Mrs. George K. Moose, chairman of the Christmas Tubercular Seal Sales in Watauga county, Tuesday stated that her organization during its recent drive collected \$130.37. This tidy sum was raised from the following sources:

Boone Demonstration school, \$14.77; Boone high school, \$5.18; Appalachian State Teachers College, \$15.63; Valle Crucis, \$3.42; Blowing Rock, \$7.00; Matney, \$2.00; Cove Creek (including Beaver Dam and Laurel Creek sections), \$25.22; Vilas, \$1.00; town of Boone, \$57.17.

One-fourth of the above amount has been forwarded to the North Carolina Tuberculosis association, to be used in its fight against the white plague. The remaining \$97.78 has been placed in the hands of Miss Marguerite Miller, county welfare officer, and treasurer of the Christmas Seal fund, who will administer its expenditure for the relief of destitute victims of the disease in Watauga.

SHELL CAFE WILL BE ENLARGED BY OWNERS

The Shell Cafe, operated for the past several months by Howard and Raleigh Cottrell, is being enlarged to accommodate the fast-increasing patronage of this popular eating house. A portion of the sales room of the Shell Filling station will be used as a dining room, and pains are being taken by the management to make it attractive in every way.

The Cottrell twins Tuesday assumed management of the Shell station, and in an announcement found in this issue promise the public an unexcelled service.

JULIA ANN CHURCH

Mrs. Julia Ann Church, aged 65, died last Tuesday at her home in the Buffalo Cove section. Funeral services and interment were in that neighborhood on Thursday.

WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

An Independent Weekly Newspaper—Established in the Year Eighteen Eighty-Eight

VOL. XLVIII, NO. 23

BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, 1937

\$1.50 PER YEAR

JOHN H. MAST IS CLAIMED BY DEATH AT AGE 78 YEARS

One of County's Most Prominent and Influential Citizens Passes Away; Funeral Services Conducted Friday by Rev. Mr. Fletcher

John Hight Mast, 78 years of age, one of Watauga county's most esteemed citizens, and late a resident of the Zionville community, succumbed at the Grace hospital, Banner Elk, last Thursday after a long period of declining health.

Funeral services were conducted from the Cove Creek Baptist church Friday afternoon by Rev. Mr. Fletcher and interment was in the family cemetery near the late residence.

Survivors include an adopted daughter, Mrs. Nora M. Wilson, of Zionville, three brothers and two sisters: J. C. Mast, Bel Air Md.; Dan H. Mast, Sugar Grove; and A. J. Mast of Zionville; Mesdames J. C. Smith, Vilas; Leona Smith, Valle Crucis.

Under the title, "A Great and Good Man Gone," a close friend of the deceased gentleman has submitted the following sketch:

"After a prolonged illness, J. H. Mast, 'Uncle John' as he was familiarly known, was called home to be with his Lord, January 14th. Thus ended the earthly pilgrimage of one of the best citizens of Watauga county.

"Uncle John was a native of Watauga county, born October 10, 1858. As a young man he was of a quiet disposition and always tried to associate with good people. His friends have often heard him say that he never saw two people fight.

"Mr. Mast was converted and joined the Cove Creek Baptist church at (Continued on Page Eight)

MRS. PERKINS DIES AT HOME IN BOONE

Daughter of Late Robert Shearer Succumbs to Pneumonia; Funeral Thursday

Mary Florence Perkins, 75, a daughter of the late Robert Shearer, and surviving widow of Lee N. Perkins, veteran of Morgan's Confederate cavalry, died at her home east of the city Tuesday afternoon at five o'clock, following an illness of six days. Pneumonia was the immediate cause of her demise.

Funeral services will be conducted from the pulpit of Boone Baptist church Thursday afternoon at 2 o'clock, with Rev. J. C. Canipe, pastor, in charge. Interment will be made in the Shearer family burying ground near Perkinsville. The body was taken to Reins-Sturdivant Funeral Home where it will be held until burial.

Survivors include one sister, Mrs. J. G. Pulliam, who was at the bedside when death occurred; one brother, Mr. M. G. Shearer, of Lenoir, and several nieces and nephews, one of whom is Attorney Robert W. Pulliam, a long-time resident at the Perkins home.

The deceased lady was of the fourth generation of Shearers born and reared at the ancestral home in Perkinsville, her forbears having played a leading part in the formation of Watauga county, and the development of Northwest North Carolina. Her father, the late Robert Shearer, was one of the largest property-holders in the mountains, and his home for a generation was a pivot around which the social and civic life of a newly-born county revolved. The Perkins home, built on the site of the old Shearer residence, was destroyed by fire several weeks ago.

In the late eighties Martha Florence Shearer became the bride of L. N. Perkins, of Mouth-of-Wilson, Va., whose reminiscences of the Civil war were published several years ago, and attracted wide attention. No children were born to the union. Mr. Perkins passed away six years ago.

Mrs. Perkins became a member of the old Three Forks congregation in early womanhood, but moved her membership to Boone Baptist church several years ago, where she was a regular attendant until death. She was known to a host of friends throughout North Carolina as a most charitable woman, one who lent willing hands and a sturdy heart to the enterprises of a land she loved.

Dallas, Texas.—The price of imported Chinese tung oil, now being produced in six southern states, fluctuated from five cents a pound in 1933 to more than 40 cents in 1935.

National Leaders Plan Gigantic Ball to Honor President and Raise Infantile Paralysis Fund



SEES COMPLETION COUNTY SCHOOLS IN EARLY MARCH

Buildings at Valle Crucis, Bethel and Boone Progress Nicely Despite Weather; WPA Engineer Pleased With Work

All rural school buildings being constructed by Works Progress administration in Watauga county will be ready for occupancy by the first of March, in the opinion of T. D. Heffner, WPA engineer of North Wilkesboro, who spent Tuesday in Boone.

Mr. Heffner pointed out that Valle Crucis school has been plastered throughout, and that skilled workmen are now engaged in trimming out the interior of this modern rock structure. A septic tank is being constructed, water lines laid and plumbing fixtures installed.

Bethel school building, the largest structure in the current rural construction program, is in the process of being plastered. Workmen are also constructing a sewage disposal plant and installing a water system at Bethel. This building is of native stone and, when completed, will house a five-school consolidation.

Sanitary Project for Mabel A project for the construction of a septic tank and improvement of the water supply at Mabel school, recently completed, will be commenced not later than February 1st. Mr. Heffner stated. Placing of finish hardware, which has recently been received, will also be included in this project.

The school for colored children, recently started in Boone, is also progressing nicely. Mr. Heffner said, and, despite rainy weather, has been roofed, enabling the workmen to proceed without interruption. This building is of frame construction, containing two large class rooms and an office.

The WPA engineer revealed that the farm-to-market road program throughout his five-county district has been practically at a stand-still due to the excessive rainfall.

Blowing Rock School Grounds To Be Improved By P. W. A.

A project for the improvement of grounds at the Blowing Rock high school will be commenced within the next few days, according to an announcement made yesterday by T. D. Heffner, of North Wilkesboro, field engineer for Works Progress administration.

Work will include the grading of grounds, building a baseball diamond and stone bleachers, fencing, landscaping, etc. The plans for this much-needed improvement were drawn by Lloyd Robbins, Blowing Rock contractor.

The federal government proposes to spend around three thousand dollars for labor and materials on this project, which is officially sponsored by the town of Blowing Rock. Mrs. Robert Wheelwright, of Philadelphia, a summer resident of the neighboring resort, will supplement federal funds with an additional fifteen hundred dollars, which will be partially used for the transportation of relief labor not

obtainable around Blowing Rock. Mr. Heffner is of the belief that this project, which will be vigorously prosecuted, is one of ranking importance, and should be completed by early summer. A force of around twenty-five men will be assigned to the project, and Mr. D. W. Wooten, experienced construction man, is being named as superintendent.

During the early days of the WPA program, a project for the improvement of Glen Burnie park at Blowing Rock was attempted, but due to the fact that little or no relief labor could be found in the immediate section, work was soon discontinued. Since that time nothing has been done by the federal works agency in Blowing Rock. Mr. Heffner stated yesterday that Mrs. Wheelwright's generous contribution has made it possible for the first time to transport sufficient labor from nearby communities to carry on the school ground project.

LOCAL BIRTHDAY COMMITTEE PROMISES BIGGEST PARTY IN HISTORY OF EVENT

Ticket Sale Indicates Throngs Will Attend Ball at Daniel Boone Hotel on Saturday, January 30; Many Attractions Offered Attendants; Freddy Moore's Orchestra to Play During the Evening; Local Children to Be Aided

Prosperity having at last made its long-awaited appearance from "around the mythical corner" and the general public of Watauga and surrounding counties being better informed than ever before concerning the national fight against infantile paralysis, Pat McGuire, chairman of the local committee for the President's Birthday Ball, expects Boone to celebrate Mr. Roosevelt's fifty-fifth anniversary on January 30th with unexampled enthusiasm.

Dry Forces Granted Request For Delay

Hearing On Liquor Issue Postponed By Assembly From Thursday Until January 28

Raleigh, Jan. 19.—United Dries today asked postponement of the battle set for Thursday, January 21, until January 28, and that in importance outdid anything before the house of representatives in its brief session this afternoon.

The dries found it impossible to get all the reinforcements necessary to combat the strongly entrenched wets. Chairman Blount, of house judiciary committee No. 1, which will hear the advocates, gave his consent to defer the hearing until the 28th.

Washington, D. C.—Winter is a cold period, not because the sun's rays are cooler, but because there are so many fewer hours of sunlight.

ANNEXATION OF BLOWING ROCK BY CALDWELL ASKED

Committee of Citizens Meet With Lenoir Chamber of Commerce; Mayor Coffey Says Town Has Been Neglected by Watauga

SCHOOL CONTROVERSY

Charges Made That County Officials Run Educational System to Suit Themselves; No WPA Work Given Town

The action of Blowing Rock citizens, who Sunday met with officers and directors of the Lenoir Chamber of Commerce, seeking annexation of that resort city and its immediate environs to Caldwell county, has caused considerable agitation among Watauga people.

The delegation was headed by Mayor D. P. Coffey and is said to have comprised many of Blowing Rock's largest property-holders. Mayor Coffey told Lenoir newspapermen that citizens of his town believed their interests could best be served by Caldwell county, which he described as "the gateway to Blowing Rock."

The estimated taxable value of Blowing Rock property is \$1,500,000, a large percentage of which, Mayor Coffey said, is owned by Caldwell county citizens. An investigation of scrolls for Blowing Rock township in the office of Tax Collector A. D. Wilson, reveals, however, that not more than ten per cent of the property is hid by persons claiming Lenoir or Caldwell county as their home. The exact valuation of Caldwell holdings in Blowing Rock is \$147,000, this amount including all properties of a development company controlled by Lenoir business men, but which has many investors throughout the Piedmont section. It also includes Mayview Manor, which is valued at \$93,475.

Mayor Coffey interviewed a Democrat representative interviewed Mayor Coffey by telephone Tuesday evening, and was told by him that petitions were being formed (Continued on Page Eight)

Mrs. Gladys Teague Passes On Monday

Mrs. Gladys Teague, 24, wife of Riley Teague, of the Hodges Gap section, died at Grace hospital, Banner Elk, Monday night about 9 o'clock, following an illness of more than two weeks' duration.

Surviving are the husband, an infant daughter, her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Conley Brown of Hodges Gap; a brother, Frank Brown, of Boone, and one sister, Mrs. Margaret Sherrill, of Hodges Gap.

Funeral services were conducted from Oak Grove Baptist church Wednesday morning at 10 o'clock, Rev. W. C. Payne and Rev. Ed Hodges officiating. Burial took place in the Hine graveyard nearby. A large concourse of friends and relatives attended the rites.

Mrs. Teague was born and spent her entire life in the Hodges Gap community. Since early childhood she had been a member of the Oak Grove Baptist congregation was popular amongst a wide acquaintance, and her passing has been the cause for sincere grief locally.

LIONS CLUB MEETING

The recently organized Lions club held its regular bi-weekly meeting at the Daniel Boone hotel Tuesday evening, with President Charles T. Zimmerman presiding. More than 20 members were present. Rev. J. C. Canipe delivered an interesting talk, and the attempt of Blowing Rock citizens to annex themselves to Caldwell county was discussed. The local civic club, through a special committee, will endeavor within the next few days to bring about a more amicable feeling between the two towns.

LOLA IRENE PARSONS

Mrs. Lola Irene Parsons, aged 19, wife of Willard Parsons, succumbed January 10 at the home near Todd.

Funeral services were conducted at the Baptist church at Todd January 12, and interment was in the neighborhood cemetery.

Surviving are the husband, Willard Parsons, the parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Seatz, and nine brothers and sisters: Barby, Nellie, Hazel, Annie Lee, Conley, Edgar, Edna, Grace and Eugene Parsons.

Committees at Work

The following committees are now engaged in perfecting details for the celebration:

Program committee: Wade Brown, Mrs. Amos Abrams, Mrs. James Mast and Mrs. G. K. Moose.

Music: Miss Nell Trivette and Miss Virginia Wary. Entertainment: Dr. Amos Abrams, Mrs. Sarah Bagley Gaither and Mrs. Jennie E. Critcher. Bridge and Setback: Mrs. Baxter M. Linney, Mrs. James Council and (Continued on Page Eight)