

The Week in Washington

A RESUME OF GOVERNMENTAL HAPPENINGS IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

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BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1937

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Washington, Feb. 2.—While there has been no change in the generally friendly attitude toward organized labor on the part of the administration and the majority leaders in congress, the demand for their support made by John L. Lewis, leader of the labor group which is trying to organize the automobile industry workers, has had the effect of toning down much of the enthusiasm for labor's cause.

Mr. Lewis, in so many words, caused upon the President to pay his debt to labor for re-electing him. That brings forth a veiled but unmistakable rebuke from the President. Mr. Roosevelt's friends point out that, while undoubtedly the mass of industrial workers voted for him, there is no evidence that Mr. Lewis' committee for industrial organization did any more in his behalf than did the American Federation of Labor; although Mr. Lewis did collect nearly half a million dollars from members of the United Mine Workers as a contribution to the Democratic campaign fund.

But neither that nor anything else, these friends say, justifies a demand by Lewis for support of one faction of organized labor in preference to another; nor can impartial observers see that the administration is under any greater obligation to labor than it is to all other citizens. To all it owes impartial administration of the laws designed to insure equal justice and opportunity to everybody, and to none does it owe more than that.

Reaction Against Lewis
Mr. Lewis' ill-considered demand has had the effect of making the department of labor and all other government agencies concerned with the labor situation "lean backward" in the effort to show no favoritism and to avoid the appearance of paying off a political debt. It has also cooled congressional ardor for some of the more advanced phases of organized labor's program.

When congress assembled there (Continued on page 8.)

Watauga Section Seeks Annexation to Caldwell

A delegation representing citizens living within a seven-mile area of Grandfather mountain appeared before the Caldwell county board of commissioners Monday to ask that this area be annexed to Caldwell in the event Blowing Rock is annexed, according to a dispatch from Lenoir. A delegation from Blowing Rock urged annexation at a meeting in Lenoir recently.

Members of the Grandfather mountain delegation pointed out that their children attended school in Blowing Rock and that, if the resort were added to Caldwell, their own section would be bounded on three sides by Caldwell county.

OFFICERS ARE NAMED BY WATAUGA CO. BANK

The election of officers for the year was the principal business transacted at a meeting of the directors of the Watauga County Bank, held in the banking quarters here Tuesday. Mr. L. A. Greene was renamed president of the institution; Mr. G. P. Hagaman, active vice-president, and Mr. Paul A. Coffey, cashier. Miss Bernice Gragg and Mr. Cecil Miller were retained in the bookkeeping department, while Mr. W. W. Mast will again serve as chairman of the executive committee.

BLOWING ROCK SENDS GOODS TO FLOOD AREA

A large truck load of food supplies and clothing was forwarded to the flood area, for the relief of the refugees, last Friday by the citizens of Blowing Rock.

The load, which weighed 3,500 pounds, was conservatively valued at \$135, and in addition there was sent \$44.05 in cash. There were 1,300 pounds of potatoes, canned goods in endless variety, and clothing of every description. The huge load of supplies, it is understood, was forwarded direct to a central distributing agency in Nashville, Tenn.

OAK GROVE CHURCH IS NEARING COMPLETION

The carpenters are now doing the finishing work on the new plant of the Oak Grove Baptist church which is located one mile west of Boone, the seats for the auditorium have been purchased, and it is expected that the building will be ready for occupancy within about two weeks.

The church building, which is of brick construction, will represent an investment of about \$6,000, and will be one of the most modern rural churches in Western North Carolina. Rev. F. C. Watts is pastor of the church, and he and his membership are to be congratulated upon their diligence and enterprise in providing the handsome edifice.

RED CROSS FUND GREATLY EXCEEDS QUOTA IN COUNTY

Collections Wednesday Morning Amounted to \$472.64; Funds Still Coming in and Demands Yet Being Made From Devastated Area

Watauga county has gone over the top in grand style as regards contributions to the Red Cross flood relief fund, a tabulation by officials Wednesday morning revealing that \$472.64 have already been contributed to the organization from this county. This is more than 50 per cent above the quota of \$300, and Mrs. James Council, Red Cross chairman, and Russell D. Hodges, emergency committee chairman, state that contributions are still coming in, and that it is quite likely in the next few hours the local donations will have passed the five hundred dollar mark.

Officials point out that there is an increasing need among the flood refugees as the scope of the disaster widens into new territory, and that there must be a continuance of the generosity of the people, in order that there may be as little suffering as possible due to disease and exposure.

Contributions should be left with Mrs. James H. Council, at the Watauga County Bank, the Farmers Hardware Store, or The Watauga Democrat office.

Following is a list of contributions thus far unreported:

Owen Wilson, \$1.00; Wade E. Brown, \$5.00; G. D. Brinkley, \$1.00; Lillie Dale, \$1.00; L. L. Bodenheimer, \$5.00; H. S. Webster, \$2.00; Cleve Gross, \$1.00; Mrs. W. H. Wagner, \$10.00; J. F. Robbins, \$1.00; Jack (Continued on page 8.)

LOCAL DRY GROUP ATTENDS MEETING

Five Dry Leaders Return From Raleigh Hearing; Believe They Will Succeed

Messrs. Clyde R. Greene, Wade E. Brown, W. D. Farthing, Archie Qualls and Rev. J. C. Canipe composed a delegation from the local dry organization which journeyed to Raleigh Thursday to appear before a legislative committee in the interest of the Hutchins bill, which would grant the people of the entire state an opportunity to vote on whether or not there should be any changes in the state prohibitory law.

The hall of the house of representatives was crowded to capacity for the hearing, and the local citizens feel that their cause is greatly strengthened. Prof. I. G. Greer, superintendent of the Mills Home, is credited with having made the most effective speech before the committee.

The local dry organization, it is said, is well organized, and will be ready to put up an effective fight should the issue be presented to the voters again. Local predictions are that Watauga county would likely register an increased dry majority this year.

WOULD ABOLISH AVERY COUNTY

Bill Introduced to Restore County to Watauga, Caldwell and Mitchell

The general assembly Friday received a bill to abolish Avery county and called back for committee consideration a tabled measure providing for maximum weekly work-hours.

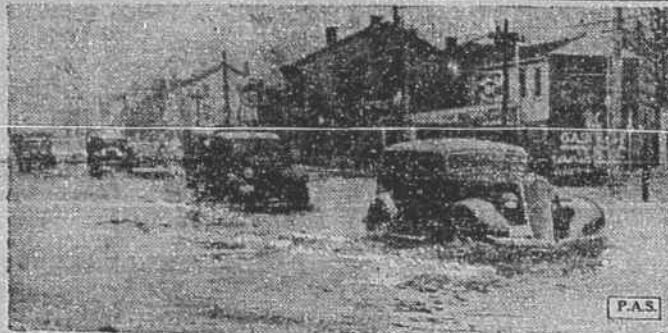
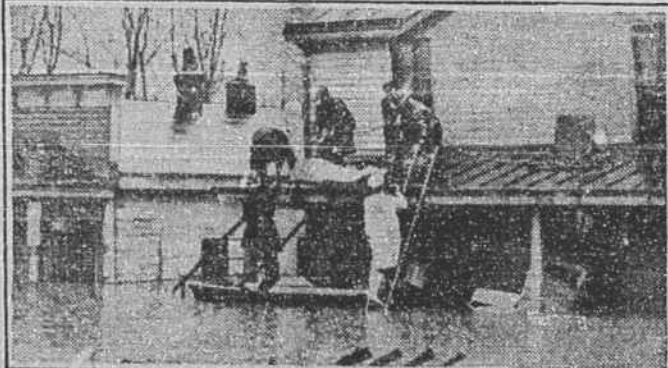
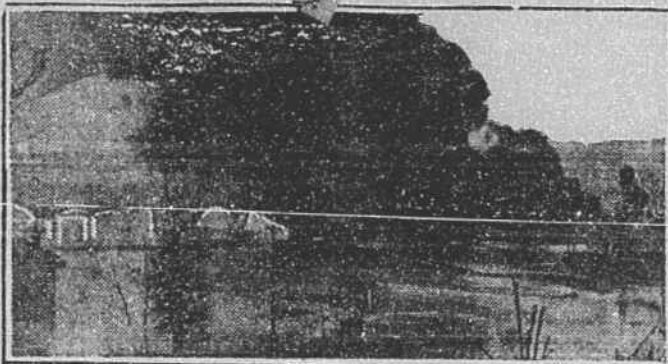
The house adopted a resolution by Representative Uzzell of Rowan, providing for the appointment by Governor Hoey of a nine-man commission to study tax classification and exemption of property.

Senator Abernethy of Caldwell introduced the bill to abolish Avery county, restoring the land from which the unit was formed in 1911 to Mitchell, Caldwell and Watauga counties.

Under the bill, the division would become effective July 1, 1937, and Avery's bonded indebtedness would remain charged against property within the county and would be liquidated and discharged by proper tax levies against said property in the same manner as if said Avery county still existed.

Abernethy said he had been requested by J. W. Ragsdale of Spruce Pine and B. E. Williams, Avery county attorney, to introduce the bill.

1,000,000 HOMELESS FLOOD ZONE NATION'S LONG GREAT RIVERS



News pictures of flood scenes, Pittsburgh to New Orleans, down the Ohio and Mississippi river basins, all tell the same story of record flood peaks, loss of lives and great property damage. Fires, started from toppling and bursting oil tanks in Cincinnati but added new horrors and losses. Top photo shows raging fires, caused by oil and gas spreading over the flood water from burst tanks there. Second top. A crew of a coast guard unit leaving Chicago for flood duty; 800 coast guards, 200 boats, 12 airplanes and 24 portable communication outfits were sent into flood territory, the biggest mobilization of coast guard for flood relief in history. Third from top, a thrilling rescue of a critically ill citizen from flooded home. Lower photo, scene as in all flooded towns as citizens flee to the hills for safety.

SOIL PROGRAM BE EXPLAINED HERE

County Agent Arranges Gathering to Disseminate Information on 1937 Proposal

The 1937 soil conservation program has been worked out and a meeting will be held at the courthouse in Boone on Wednesday, February 11 at 2 o'clock p. m., to explain the program to the farmers of Watauga county according to an announcement by County Agent W. B. Collins yesterday. Mr. Fred Sloan, extension district agent, of State College, will be here to explain the program in detail to the farmers.

The 1937 program is very much the same as the 1936 program, but certain changes have been made in regard to the amounts of payments that may be earned, and for this reason a large number of farmers of the county should attend this meeting, so they may thoroughly understand the program, and plan their 1937 farming operation in such a manner as to take full advantage of the program.

Every farmer in the county is invited to attend this meeting.

WILL LECTURE ON TOBACCO CULTURE

Raymond Rossen, farm agent of Washington county, Tenn., will deliver a lecture at Cove Creek high school Friday afternoon at one o'clock on the cultivation and care of tobacco.

All farmers in Watauga county interested in the subject to be discussed are cordially invited to attend.

MINISTERS MEET IN BOONE MONDAY

'Present Tendency of the Time' Will Be Topic for Discussion by the Clergy

The monthly meeting of the Watauga County Ministers' association will be held at the Boone Methodist church Monday morning, February 8, beginning at 10 o'clock. All ministers of the county are invited to attend. President J. C. Canipe will preside.

The subject, "Present Tendency of the Time," will be treated as follows:

1. "From a Social and Secular Standpoint," by Rev. J. W. Parker, of Henson's Chapel Methodist church.
2. "From a Political Standpoint," by Rev. J. C. Canipe, of Boone Baptist church.
3. "From a Religious Standpoint," by Rev. H. V. Kistler, pastor of several Lutheran churches in the county.

BARK MILL, RARE RELIC STOLEN FROM PREMISES

A bark mill, which had been used by four generations of the Hardin family, and which had long since been discarded, was recently stolen from the premises of Mrs. Joseph Hardin, and she is very anxious to receive any information as to the whereabouts of the valued relic.

The piece of machinery, which was operated by a sweep, similar to a cane mill, weighed several hundred pounds, and was used to pulverize bark preparatory to making the ooze for tanning. Because of its great age, it was highly valued by the Hardin family, who will greatly appreciate any proffered information.

Watauga County Bank To Merge With Three Other Institutions of Northwest

Proposed New Financial Institution to Be Known as The Northwestern Bank, With Main Offices at North Wilkesboro; to Be Three Million Dollar Banking House at Outset

With over 80 per cent of the common stock in the Watauga County Bank represented at the annual meeting of the stockholders, held in the banking quarters here Saturday, January 30, it was unanimously voted to have the local banking institution enter the proposed consolidation to be known as The Northwestern Bank.

The consolidation plan is for the stockholders in the Merchants and Farmers Bank of Bakersville, with a branch at Burnsville, the Deposit and Savings Bank at North Wilkesboro, the Bank of Sparta, at Sparta, and the Watauga County Bank at Boone, with a branch at Blowing Rock, to approve a consolidation of those four institutions, by organizing The Northwestern Bank, and have the newly formed institution purchase the assets and assume the liabilities of the four banks named. The unanimous approval given to the idea by the action taken in Boone Saturday, is considered as assuring the success of the plan.

HUNDREDS GATHER TO PARTICIPATE IN PRESIDENT'S BALL

Benefit Affair is the Most Successful in History of the Occasion; Net Proceeds More Than Two Hundred Dollars

A throng of several hundred persons, made up of people of Boone, Watauga county, and every nearby town and county, converged at the Daniel Boone hotel last Saturday evening to enjoy the President's Ball and at the same time lend a hand in the fight that is thus being waged against infantile paralysis.

The dance was a brilliant affair, the best of good feeling prevailed, and a preliminary report made Wednesday morning by Roger McGuire, chairman of the arrangements committee, indicated that slightly more than \$300 had been received from the event, with reports still to come in from ticket sales in some of the outside communities. After the expenses are all paid there will remain something more than \$200, 70 per cent of which will be retained in the community for infantile paralysis sufferers, the remainder to be used for the benefit of the Warm Springs Foundation. A complete report will be made as soon as ticket sales are all reported.

Mr. McGuire joins with Mayor Gragg in extending thanks to the people who gathered, for their excellent conduct and their fine spirit of helpfulness, and they find general agreement in the belief that it was the most delightful function of the kind thus far held in the community.

Mr. McGuire particularly desires to thank those who served so unselfishly on the various committees and helped to make the ball the greatest financial success thus far known in the city.

CHILD IS INJURED

Little Miss Helen Hodges, seven-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ronda Hodges, suffered a severe fracture of an ankle last week, in an accident which occurred while she was riding a bicycle. She was taken to the Orthopaedic hospital in Gastonia, where it was thought she would show an early recovery.

M'NEIL NAMED NEW TAX SUPERVISOR

Resident of Rutherfordwood Section is Successor to Emory Greer in County Position

Clement D. McNeil, prominent resident of the Rutherfordwood section, was named by the board of commissioners Monday as county tax supervisor for the ensuing twelve months, and took over the duties of the important office immediately.

Mr. McNeil succeeds Emory G. Greer, who has rendered the county most acceptable service as tax supervisor for the past four years.

The new official is particularly well qualified for the position and it is believed the commissioners have used fine judgment in the selection.

CHRISTMAS SEAL REPORT

Mrs. G. K. Moose, county chairman of the sale of anti-tuberculosis Christmas seals, reports an additional sum of \$3.50 received from Cove Creek, making a total of \$100.41 to stay in the county.

Such a consolidation will give to the northwestern section a \$3,000,000 financial institution at its very outset, and in doing so, will in no wise interfere with local commercial banking conditions in any of the communities now being served. On the other hand, it will afford a greater and more efficient banking service through the increase of loaning limit from the present maximum of \$13,000 in the individual unit, to a maximum of \$45,000 in the consolidation. A limit of such proportions will afford ample accommodation to any of the industrial, agricultural or other borrowing demands in the entire territory served, thus precluding the necessity of any individual or enterprise leaving the northwestern section to be accommodated elsewhere.

Other advantages to be gained by such a consolidation will be in the centralized and day to day supervision over all of the operations; the immediate retirement of \$65,000 in Reconstruction Finance corporation preferred stock on which three of the four banks entering the consolidation are now paying approximately \$2,000 in annual dividends; in a considerable saving through centralized purchase of supplies, and in the centralized and skillfully trained direction of security investments. The latter item in itself is one that has attracted primary attention during the past decade, as banking investments in stocks and bonds are now approximately amounting to 45 per cent of the total resources of all banking institutions.

Similar meetings of the stockholders in the three other institutions (Continued on Page Eight)

Blowing Rock Scouts Aid Flood Victims

Last Sunday an appeal came over the radio from the flood relief authorities to the Boy Scouts of America for assistance in raising funds for the flood stricken areas of the middle west.

The Boy Scouts of Blowing Rock, Troop 42, Winston-Salem Council, canvassed the village and raised the sum of \$23.41 which was forwarded to the relief agencies at Louisville, Ky. This sum was subscribed by the citizens of Blowing Rock in sums of from three cents up to one dollar per person. The fund is continuing to grow and there will be another check forwarded in due time. The Scouts feel proud of the way in which their fellow citizens responded and also feel a commendable pride in being able to thus do their bit in a worthy cause.

The Blowing Rock Troop is made up of the following boys:

Ray Castle, Tommie Gragg, Jimmie Harris, Granville Hartley, Bernard Pennell, Ross Pitts, Max Story, Johnnie Tate, Bobby Ward, Billie Williams, Jimmie Williams, Ernest Williams and Claude Gragg.

Last Monday the whole troop visited the Boone troop and had a very pleasant evening at games and practicing various of the numerous things Scouts learn to do, including bandaging, life saving, fire drills, etc.

A pressing invitation was extended to the Boone troop to visit the Blowing Rock boys at an early date.

Much Clothing Is Sent to Flood Area

Wednesday a shipment of clothing was forwarded to the flood sufferers which had been gathered by the mayor at city hall; and which was estimated to have a value of around \$300. There was clothing of every size and description, for men, women and children, and the shipment included some dozens of good heavy quilts and other items of bed clothing.