

Make Plans to Do Your Christmas Shopping in Boone

WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

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The Week in Washington

A RESUME OF GOVERNMENTAL HAPPENINGS IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

Washington, Nov. 23—All branches of the federal government, legislative, executive and judicial, are giving serious attention to the problem of how to relieve private business from the strains imposed by too much governmental restriction and taxation. The sudden slump in business activities came as a surprise to many Washington officials and a shock to all. For political reasons, no less than economic, it has alarmed those who are concerned with election results and who are keenly aware that all the congressmen and a third of the senators must stand for re-election in less than a year. Something must be done before then to start the wheels of business and industry rolling again.

Power Companies on Spot
The problem of how government can help business has even reached the supreme court in one of its phases. In response to representations that the electric power companies were ready to spend several billion dollars in extending and improving their service, provided government would refrain from competition and in general ease up on the restrictions which make capital timid about utility investments, President Roosevelt said he would favor such a course by government provided the power companies would readjust their rates in accordance with the actual investment in their plants, instead of on their replacement cost. The practice of valuation of utilities at what it would cost today to build their plants, and basing rates upon the interest return on such valuations, has been upheld by the federal courts since 1889. But now a case has come before the supreme court, in which the Federal Power Commission asks that body to decide that a California electric company must reduce its rates to the basis of the money actually invested in its business.

Should the court find for the government, it would be a reversal of previous supreme court decisions, but it would open the door for the carrying out of the President's pledge to co-operate with the power companies, and so put it up to them to make good on their assurance that they are ready to spend a lot of money and put a lot of men to work once the government eases up on them.

Congress Weighs Business "Relief"

As an aid to business and industry, in general, congress seems to be greatly impressed with the desirability of lessening the tax burdens on corporations and on the earnings of private capital, to encourage wider investment and business expansion. It seems a safe prediction that some measure of relief for business will be enacted at this session of congress, before it gets around to the first item on the President's program, farm relief. The belief of most experienced observers here is that it will be congress, not the President, which will decide what to do first and how to do it.

Workers' Money to Finance Work

Action by congress is not needed to carry out a broad plan of co-operating with business and capital in trying to stimulate the building industry. (Continued on page eight)

MRS. FURR HURT IN AUTO CRASH

Daughter of Prof. Dotson Seriously Injured; Mr. Furr and Son Hurt

Mrs. Floyd Furr of Concord, daughter of Prof. and Mrs. Roy Dotson of Boone, suffered a fracture of the skull, Mr. Furr received bodily and facial injuries and Floyd, Jr., was lacerated and bruised to an extent in an automobile accident which occurred Saturday night on the Boone Trail highway as the family was en route to Boone to visit with home folks.

The accident occurred 16 miles west of North Wilkesboro when Mr. Furr found it impossible to avoid striking a huge dog which streaked onto the pavement. The impact left the driver powerless to right the machine before it crashed into an abutment to a culvert and was almost demolished.

Passersby assisted in rescuing Mrs. Furr from the mass of wreckage, and she was rushed to the Wilkes hospital where it was found she had suffered a fracture of the skull. The lady remained unconscious throughout the night, but Tuesday it was believed that her condition was sufficiently improved to permit her discharge from the hospital by Thursday. Mr. Furr and son were treated and their wounds found to be of a minor nature.

WE THANK YOU, FRIENDS

The first of the week while The Democrat was scouting about for the regular run of advertising, it developed that the business men of the town were working up a group of complimentary advertisements in connection with the new newspaper building, which resulted in this issue coming out in the form of a special edition.

Members of the Merchants Association and all the other business men of the town, as well as one professional, Atty. Wade E. Brown, who solicited the ads, have the undoubted thanks of the publisher for their generosity in this connection. The many fine sentiments expressed in these columns today toward the newspaper, make the publisher feel mighty good, and he has not sufficient words to express the emotions they produce. Suffice it to say, that the fine friendships thus exemplified will stimulate the newspaper to an even greater desire to be of an increased service to the community and the county.

Friends, we thank you sincerely.

AID FOR ORPHANS IS BEING ARSKED

Annual Thanksgiving Appeal For Fatherless Ones is Made by State Group

Raleigh, Nov. 20—For years it has been the custom for member organizations of the North Carolina Orphanage Association to make a state-wide, concerted appeal at the Thanksgiving season to the more fortunate citizens of North Carolina to give of their bounty and substance to the under-privileged, dependent children who are wards of child-caring institutions.

Again for 1937 this appeal will be made for the children numbering approximately 4,500 who are provided for in these 27 institutions.

The sum of \$1,500,000 in public funds available in North Carolina on July 1, 1937, for aid to dependent children has revealed the orphanages of the responsibility of many children on their long waiting lists by providing grants for their care in their own homes or in homes of close kin where those homes are "safe and proper."

But there remain not only the children in the present population of the orphanages, but several thousand children in addition scattered about over the state who need the help and security which these private agencies can give because the relatives of these children, if they have any, are not suitable guardians.

In commenting on the work of the orphanages and their need of continued support through private funds, Mrs. W. T. Bost, commissioner of the North Carolina State Board of Charities and Public Welfare, says:

"The records in our division of public assistance show that a total of 2,079 families received assistance from the fund for aid to dependent children during the month of September, 1937. In these 2,079 families there are approximately 6,501 children. As this assistance program develops, other families will be added to this list.

"But this program does not provide funds for the care of children who are duly neglected and dependent children because they have no kin who are suitable guardians for them and who can provide them with 'safe and proper homes' as required by the Social Security Act, both federal and state.

"Indeed, to provide real security and protection for this group of children, it is necessary that they be placed in substitute or foster homes either by the juvenile courts or accepted for care by private children's agencies licensed or approved by the board in accordance with provisions of our child welfare laws. At present, in most of the counties of the state, there are no funds provided for a juvenile court budget for even temporary care of children removed by the court from the custody of kin (Continued on page eight)

STORES TO BE CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING DAY

The stores of the town will be closed all day Thanksgiving in observance of Thanksgiving Day, while the postoffice and bank also observe the holiday. Members of the Merchants Association are supposed to close on Thanksgiving under the terms of the organization's by-laws.

DECORATIONS FOR HOLIDAYS BEING INSTALLED HERE

Christmas Shopping Season to Officially Begin December 4. When Holiday Street Decorations Are to Be Lighted; Suitable Program Planned

Electricians of the New River Light & Power Company were busily engaged Wednesday in installing the wiring for the Christmas street lighting system, and when the switch is turned on December 4th, the shopping season will have officially opened in the city.

Mr. Wade E. Brown, secretary to the Merchants Association, stated that plans called for the stretching of huge ropes of evergreens on either side of the street from the Green Inn to The Democrat office, and from the Hodges Tire Company to the Highland Furniture store, these to form crosses above the streets at various places and to be ablaze with lights of many colors. At the intersection of King and Depot streets, a large silver star will lend brilliance to the scheme.

At the same time the merchants are preparing to decorate their windows in holiday attire so that they may also be lighted on the 4th, and Mr. Brown states that Santa Claus will be in evidence, that there will be favors for the children, and that jolly Saint Nicholas will have a colorful advent.

RED CROSS DATA IS NOT AVAILABLE

Wintry Weather Has Delayed Returns From County; Goal is 300 Members

Due to the severe weather of the past few days, Mrs. James H. Council, county chairman, has yet been unable to secure complete returns from the county as to the Red Cross Roll Call campaign, which comes to a close today. However, Mrs. Council and others connected with the organization feel confident that the goal of 300 memberships has been reached.

The campaign was launched with an impressive parade through the streets of Boone with Red Cross nurses, soldiers and various decorated cars carrying a number of leading citizens, and canvassers in town have been exceedingly well pleased with the response of the citizenry.

Those who have not as yet joined the Red Cross are earnestly asked to leave their dollar with Mrs. Council or with either of the workers in the town or county, before the final returns are made, perhaps the last of the week.

New York City has been made accessible to aerial commuters by the installation of turntables and ramps.

New Democrat Building Opens

NEW HOME OF NEWSPAPER



The recently occupied Watauga Democrat building, which is now being used.

MANY CITIZENS VISIT EDIFICE

Building Not Complete But Offices to Be Ready for Occupancy in Few Days; Structure Represents Unique Type of Architecture

The Democrat is now carrying forward its work in its new home with satisfaction, and while the mechanical department was in a rather chaotic condition last week, hundreds of visitors are now dropping in to see the layout of what many believe is the most handsome weekly structure in the state. The office space has not as yet been completed, due to the fact that mechanics have had their hands full in an effort to finish the living quarters on the second floor, but within the next few days it is felt that the news rooms will be divorced from the grind of the machinery and the plant moving along as originally intended.

The building which fronts 46 feet on Main street and which has a depth of 58 feet was constructed from plans drawn by E. A. Poe, Lenoir architect, and the front which is a combination of brick and stone from the outlying hills, presents a distinctive type of architecture which is bringing about much favorable comment. The first floor contains two offices, the mechanical department and a passageway and stairs for the second floor, which is rapidly being fitted into apartment space. There is a full basement, which is largely used for the heating plant and for storage purposes.

A Fine Job of Construction

The actual building was under the supervision of Mr. B. G. Teams, one of the best construction men in this part of the state, who through courtesy of the Appalachian College, where he is superintendent of buildings, was enabled to co-operate with the foreman of construction, Mr. Wilfred Davis, also an outstanding builder, in bringing the edifice to completion.

Many builders have referred to the quality of the construction, to the granite and brick and steel which forged the structure into one of the strongest, and yet one of the most beautiful buildings in the city.

The entire building is heated from one of the latest steam plants, electric equipment has been wired in the most approved and convenient style, and the home of The Democrat, it is felt, will serve the needs of the growing newspaper for many years to come.

History of Democrat Reveals Trials Of Veteran Publisher

The Watauga Democrat, which is Boone's oldest business institution and which expects to celebrate its fiftieth anniversary in July of next year, was established in 1888 by Hon. J. F. Spainhour, who now resides in Morganton. After one year the paper changed hands, D. B. Dougherty becoming the editor and R. C. Rivers the publisher. Mr. Dougherty remained with the publication for several years, after which Mr. Rivers took over the complete control, and saw to it that The Democrat reached its readers each week for a period of 44 years.

Following his death in 1933, R. C. Rivers, Jr., and Jim Rivers continued with the plant, Jim having distinguished himself for his writings under the head of "Sketches from Life." Jim is now with the U. S. Bituminous Coal Commission, and Rob continues with the job of publishing the weekly.

For about 35 years The Democrat was printed in the ancient brick residence which occupied a part of the site of the new building, but in the fall of 1922 was moved into the structure just vacated. Soon thereafter a linotype machine displaced the old movable types, job printing machinery was added, which has been built up during the succeeding years to a model small-town plant, and the weekly has grown to the extent that the elder Bob Rivers' dream of a more imposing structure somewhere in the vicinity of his spreading maple tree, has been realized.

In the olden days the Washington handpress and a few cases of type comprised the entire equipment of The Democrat. The elder Bob Rivers did not have a typewriter, for the machines hadn't made their appearance in this region. His thoughts were transferred directly to type, there being no time for the use of pencil. With only a few families residing along the muddy roadway, the problem of gathering news for the weekly issues was a serious one, and political stories constituted the major part of reading matter. Paper was brought by wagon from Lenoir and often the publisher would go on horseback and meet a wagon at Blowing Rock, get a bundle of paper, hurry home and have the paper to press when the vehicle arrived. Much could be written of the early days in this shop, but at any rate the first departure from the old system came when a small power cylinder press was bought some twenty-five years ago, and four horses transported the tiny machine from Lenoir. When the rolling beams, however, reached a point on the Blowing Rock road, about where the Log Cabin filling station stands, the wagon stuck into the mud for good, and the load remained there until sometime next day. After that time the improvement in the physical properties has been rapid, but as we rejoice today in our latest achievement, our thoughts revert to other days, and to another country publisher, who spent forty-four years with the stain of printers ink on his fingers, the honest sweat of whose rugged brow is figuratively mixed into the concrete which supports us as we write and print and labor; whose foresight and whose ambition motivated those who followed him. It is he who deserves the credit.

Wintry Weather Strikes County

Winter came to town in dead earnest last week, and temperatures Saturday night were variously reported as from 10 degrees to zero, the lowest reading, however, at the college weather bureau was eight degrees. The cold was accompanied by driving snow Saturday and Sunday there was little change in the temperature as hundreds of motorists enjoyed the thrill of operating their cars on the highways. Tobogganed kiddies with their sleds were in plentiful evidence. By Monday the temperature had raised a little, Tuesday was warmer, while today the sun is shining and many are going about the streets without top coats.

ELDER ADKINS LEAVES TO TAKE UP NEW WORK

Elder W. L. Adkins, for the past eleven months pastor of the Seventh Day Adventist church in the Clark's Creek section, left Tuesday morning for Peewee Valley, Ky., where he will preach for his denomination and where Mrs. Adkins will be a nurse in the church hospital.

Rev. Mr. Adkins has been preacher, pastor and all-round partner to the people in the Clark's Creek section, and it is much regretted that other work called he and his family away. They promise, however, to return when it is possible and hope some day to permanently establish their home in this section.

PRIZES NOW READY FOR 4-H CLUB BOYS

Inducements Already Offered Boys For Livestock Next Year

Fifty dollars in prizes is now ready for 4-H Club boys of Watauga and other counties who will compete in the Asheville fat cattle show next year. Mr. W. H. Gragg, of the North Carolina Hereford Breeders Association, in making the announcement, states that there will be a first prize of \$25; second \$15 and third of \$10. Mr. Gragg, who was adjudged the best farmer in Watauga county and who has established good blood lines on his plantation, states that to be eligible for these prizes the club boys will have to use only those calves coming from pure-bred sires.

MR. GREER HONORED ON 94TH BIRTHDAY

"Uncle" Phillip Greer of Mabel, celebrated his 94th birthday Saturday, and the esteemed gentleman, who has been ill for some time, greatly enjoyed a gathering of his sons and daughters and their families. Mr. Greer has shown some improvement for the past few weeks, and greatly enjoys frequent visits of relatives and friends.

The Suez Canal was opened in 1869.

A Thanksgiving Prayer

For what we have, though small it be,
We thank thee, Lord,
For the simple joys of serenity,
We thank thee, Lord,
For the gentle touch of the friendly hand
Of those who love and understand,
We thank thee, Lord

Of all thy gifts the greatest three
Are friendship, love and fidelity,
Let others pray for the harvest's yields,
For the golden grains of the fruitful fields,
Humbly our prayer to thee we send
That when we've reached our journey's end,
Someone may say, "Farewell, good friend."

W.P.R.