

WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

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BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1937

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The Week in Washington

A RESUME OF GOVERNMENTAL HAPPENINGS IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

Washington, Dec. 1.—Between the time when congress broke up in a row last summer, practically shaking its fists at the White House, and the convening of the special session on November 15, two things happened which have knocked all the plans away. Neither was anticipated.

First, the members who have been back home conferring with their constituents did not have their ears knocked down for being sassy to the President, as it had been predicted by administration spokesmen would happen. And, second, a sudden slump occurred in business and industry, of such proportions as to send shudders of apprehension of its possible political results over every senator and representative who has to stand for re-election next fall.

Runaway Congress
The direct result of these two things is that the congress is in a more independent mood than it has been at any time in the past five years, and is showing signs of going ahead under its own steam and charting its own course. How far and in what direction it will get in this short special session is still unpredictable, but it looks as if it will adjourn for the Christmas holidays with a good deal of the program which the President called it to consider still unacted.

Senate Marks Time
Since the senate cannot initiate tax legislation under the constitution, all it can do is to talk until the house sends it a tax bill to consider. But the talk in the senate, supplemented by expressions by members of the House of representatives on and off the record, disclosed a surprisingly unanimity of opinion in favor of taking immediate steps to unshackle business and industry from the fetters of restrictive taxation, particularly the undistributed profits tax and the capital gains tax.

No Tax Change Now
That the special session will repeal or amend the taxes on industry which are generally conceded to have hamstringed business enterprise, seems doubtful. But if out of the debates and the public declarations come assurances which the business world accepts that it is going to get relief in the near future, a good start will have been made toward recovery from this latest depression.

NEW AUTO LICENSES ARE PLACED ON SALE
The 1938 automobile license plates went on sale Wednesday and the motor vehicle division reports that almost 40,000 more tags had been sold this year than ever before. The sales will be conducted through 50 stations throughout North Carolina and those not living near a place of sale may still get their tags by remitting direct to Raleigh.

GOES TO CALIFORNIA
Mr. Robert W. Pulliam left Saturday for Santa Maria, California, where he will be employed during the winter, returning to his farm here next spring. Mr. Pulliam has a sister, Mrs. Mary Leslie Marshall, who resides in Santa Maria.

EARLY CHRISTMAS ADS ARE REQUESTED
Merchants of the town are asked to co-operate with The Democrat in the matter of preparing copy for their Christmas ads for next week's edition. Indications are that the lineage this year will be greater perhaps than ever before, and it will be necessary for many of these holiday ads to be in type by the end of the week. The Democrat will furnish such assistance in the matter of cuts and layout as is desired, and the complete co-operation of the merchants is necessary.

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BLOWING ROCK, BOONE TO JOIN IN CIVIC MEETING

Hospitality Committee Is To Be Named at Gathering of Chambers of Commerce Here Thursday Evening

The county chairman of the Governor's Hospitality Committee, Attorney W. R. Lovell, representatives of the Blowing Rock and Boone Chambers of Commerce and all others interested are to gather in the basement of the Boone Baptist church Thursday evening, to enjoy the supper given by the Fidelis class, and to complete the naming of the local hospitality committee. Attorney Wade E. Brown, who is secretary to the Boone Chamber of Commerce, is anxious that the gathering be well attended, and believes the fullest measure of co-operation between Boone and the other towns in this region is necessary if the hospitality group idea is to insure to the greatest benefit to this section.

CITY OBSERVES THANKSGIVING

All Stores Close and Many Take Journeys During the Holiday Period

NO TAX CHANGE NOW

MAYOR GRAGG DECLARES OPENING OF CHRISTMAS SHOPPING SEASON

MERCHANTS ASKED TO PAY ON DECORATIONS

RITES ARE HELD FOR SISTER BOONE WOMAN

FIREMEN'S BANQUET

LEGION MEETING

FIDELIS CLASS TO HOLD OYSTER SUPPER

RETURNS FROM HOSPITAL

MARION THOMAS DIES AT AGE 75; RITES THURSDAY

Leading Figure in the Life of the Western Part of the County Expires From Brief Illness; Funeral Service Held at Home

Marion Thomas, widely known resident of the North Fork section, and one of the most influential citizens of the county, died last Wednesday, after an illness of only a few days, which was brought about by a paralytic stroke. He was 75 years old. Funeral services were conducted from the late residence Thursday afternoon, a large crowd of friends gathering to pay their respects to the dead and to extend their sympathies to the survivors. Rev. Joe Greene was in charge of the obsequies, Prof. E. H. Duncan and Smith Eggers taking part in the rites, and the impressive vocal selections were in charge of Jim Burkett. People from all walks of life attended the funeral and every section of the county was represented. Interment was in the family cemetery.

Surviving are the widow, Mrs. Margaret Church Thomas, five sons and one daughter: Don Thomas, Clint Thomas, Butler Thomas, Reid Thomas, Howard Thomas, Traic, Tenn., and Mrs. Ben F. Little, of Clifton. Eleven grandchildren and a host of relatives and friends are also left to mourn his passing.

DR. T. C. BLACKBURN CLAIMED BY DEATH

Prominent Hickory Physician Was Reared in Watauga County; Rites Tuesday

Dr. Thomas C. Blackburn, 68 years old, native Watauga and brother of the late M. B. Blackburn, and Hon. E. Spencer Blackburn, died at his home in Hickory early Monday morning, after an illness which had been decidedly serious for the past two weeks. Funeral services were conducted Tuesday morning from the First Methodist church in that city with Rev. J. C. Cornett as the officiating minister. Interment was in Oakwood cemetery. As a mark of respect to the deceased physician, all the Hickory drug stores closed during the hour of the funeral.

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SANTA CLAUS IS COMING



Santa Claus is on his way to Boone, and while it is not promised that in this machine age he will come astride a reindeer, nevertheless the patron saint of childhood will be in Boone next Saturday for the opening of the holiday season, and to distribute knick-knacks to the children who come to town. Bring the kiddies and enjoy the day.

SANTA CLAUS TO BE PRESENT FOR HOLIDAY OPENING

Bright Lights Will Be Turned On Saturday Afternoon, Ushering in the Holidays; Santa Claus Will Distribute Gifts to Children

Saturday marks the opening of the holidays in so far as this city is concerned and a corps of electricians is working tirelessly in an effort to have the ever-green decorations throughout the business section ablaze with lights over the week-end, and every succeeding evening throughout the holidays. The embellishment for the streets in holiday attire is being done through the co-operation of the Retail Merchants Association, the city authorities and the New River Light and Power Company, and the decorations will be on a scale thus far unattempted by any of the smaller cities in this region.

MEANTIME MERCHANTS ARE BUSY

Meantime the merchants of the town are working like beavers arranging their comprehensive stocks of gift items for what they believe will be the largest holiday trade since before the depression. Never in the history of the city have so many nice things for Christmas been shown in the local shops, and there is a gift for everyone, regardless of how much the giver may want to invest. Generally speaking, however, the scale of prices on Christmas merchandise is lower than last year.

SANTA CLAUS COMING

Saturday when the lights are turned on and when visitors will first be able to glimpse the elaborate window displays of the merchants, Santa Claus will be here in person, and there will be souvenirs and gifts for the children distributed at the hands of the jolly St. Nicholas. It is going to be a happy opening of the holidays and some thousands of persons from this and adjoining counties are expected to throng the streets over the week-end, to meet and mingle with their friends and to make their initial Christmas purchases.

TOYS ARE SOUGHT FOR NEEDY ONES

Fire Department Solicits Gifts of Toys, Dolls, etc., for Charity

The Boone Fire Department is showing its usual anxiety for the happiness of the destitute children of the neighborhood at Christmas time, and is urgently requesting those who have surplus toys to bring or send them to the city hall as early as possible, in order that they may gladden the hearts of the needy tots during the holidays.

Pat McGuire, fire chief, states that toys which are no longer useable, which are broken or discarded for other reasons, are especially wanted, and that the members of his department will repair them in time for Christmas, if they are brought in soon. Dolls, wagons, scooters—anything kiddies use, are welcomed at city hall these days, and no better way can be found of enjoying Christmas yourself than to help a destitute child make merry.

REVIVAL MEETING ON AT OAK GROVE CHURCH

A series of revival services are being conducted at the Oak Grove Baptist church, one mile west of Boone, the pastor, Rev. F. C. Watts, being assisted in the services by Rev. C. C. Holland, pastor of the Baptist church at Taylorsville. Much interest is being shown in the meeting, and the church extends a cordial invitation to Boone people and others to participate in the revival. The meeting is expected to continue through next week.

Mr. Clint Brown, who is in the CCC camps at Statesville, was a visitor Thanksgiving with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Brown, near Valle Crucis.

MAYOR GRAGG DECLARES OPENING OF CHRISTMAS SHOPPING SEASON

Whereas, Boone is making rapid strides toward becoming the trade center for a territory embracing some 75,000 people of the northwestern area of the state, and,

Whereas, the expansion of Boone's trading territory has been brought about by the progressive action and foresight of an exceedingly live group of merchants in every line of trade, who have bought heavily in every instance so that they may effectively serve the needs of the Northwest at Christmas time as well as throughout the year. We know of no city of similar size as well equipped to take care of the every need and demand, in every line of merchandise, as is Boone. I have had an opportunity to observe the opening of the Christmas merchandise in our stores, and have never yet seen so large a line of holiday goods, so attractively displayed, or offered at lower prices. I see no good reason for anyone leaving Watauga county for any article of merchandise this winter, and am a firm and conscientious believer in giving the business to our home merchants, who have made such expensive and elaborate preparation for our trade.

Now, therefore, I, W. H. Gragg, mayor of the town of Boone, do hereby proclaim Saturday, December 4th, as the official opening of the holiday shopping season in Boone, and urge those who cannot secure their holiday needs from their local merchants in the various communities of this county, to come to Boone, where your every wish will be gratified, and where you will find a group of merchants and salespeople in every store ready to render you every courteous assistance possible. We welcome you with warm hearts and open arms.

MERCHANTS ASKED TO PAY ON DECORATIONS

The streets are being decorated through individual donations from the town's business men, and Wade E. Brown, secretary of the Merchants Association, is insisting that all those who have not paid their assessment do so at once, so that the cost of the venture may be promptly paid. He is anxious to have all these donations in hand by the time the decorating job is completed.

FIREMEN'S BANQUET

The local fire department was host at a banquet given at the Daniel Boone Hotel Wednesday evening of this week, about 20 of the firefighters and other citizens being present. Several extemporaneous talks were made by city officials and others and an evening of good fellowship was enjoyed.

LEGION MEETING

Watauga Post No. 130, American Legion, will meet Friday evening of this week at 7:30 at the Legion hut, and officials are anxious for a good crowd, as there are many matters of extreme importance to the post to be discussed.

RETURNS FROM HOSPITAL

Mr. Frank Robbins, who has been a patient at the government hospital in Johnson City for the past several months, is spending two weeks with his family here. Mr. Robbins' condition is somewhat improved.