

Santa Claus is Coming Back to Boone Next Saturday

The Week in Washington

A RESUME OF GOVERNMENTAL HAPPENINGS IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

Washington, Dec. 8.—As nearly as anything can be certain which has not yet happened, congress will repeal or greatly modify the taxes on undistributed corporation profits and on capital gains, and it will do this with the blessing of the White House. This relief for business, calculated to inspire confidence and induce capital to invest in enterprises which will put men back to work is regarded by all official Washington as the most essential thing to be done. That opinion is practically unanimous in both houses of congress and in administration circles from the President down.

If these tax reforms can be rushed through in this special session the result would be quicker in its effect in breaking the present business depression, but in spite of the pressing need for such relief, congress shows signs of not letting itself be stampeded into hasty action. Congressional memories are keen, and they recall that the undistributed profits tax is one of the New Deal measures which was rushed through under pressure from the White House.

Congress Becomes Wary

This time the pressure comes from the entire business world, but congress is apparently determined to proceed in an orderly manner and not to enact another law which in its turn will call for amendment or repeal in a year's time. The problem is not so much how to amend the tax law in that respect, though there are differences of opinion yet to be ironed out, as it is to provide in the same general revision of the tax laws some other taxes to fill the gap in revenues which the proposed action would leave.

Budget Balancing Move

As an earnest of the sincerity of his desire to bring the federal budget into balance, the President has proposed a reduction in the federal appropriations for highways. All the major trunk roads are now in good shape, he pointed out the other day, and the farm-to-market roads built by WPA are about completed. The federal highway appropriations have been running at around 200 millions a year and Mr. Roosevelt thinks half or less of that would be enough.

In the effort to stimulate business the President has given orders to all departments to speed up the necessary purchases of all kinds of supplies for which appropriations have been made. About \$275,000,000 of goods from cement to typewriter ribbons are to be bought by Uncle Sam between now and June 30 when the fiscal year ends. If most of that can be put into circulation in December, January and February, it is figured the effect on business and employment would be beneficial.

Power Chiefs Optimistic

Much larger expenditures are in prospect on the part of the great public utilities as a result of recent White House conferences between the President and the heads of the big power companies. While there is as yet no official assurance that the administration will abandon completely its policy of developing all the electric energy possible in the course of river improvements in aid of navigation, there are many indications here which have led the power magnates to the optimistic conclusion that they have no serious competition to fear from the government in the distribution of electric current.

Progress is slower in the matter of stimulating building, but a feeling of unusual confidence exists here that a way will be found of making it both profitable and secure for capital to invest in building projects of all kinds, and here again, there are assurances from those in control of huge sums of investment capital that they will spend by the hundreds of millions as soon as a satisfactory plan of co-operation has been worked out.

In all the discussion going on about ways and means to stem the tide of business depression, the first and major item of the program for which the President called this special session of congress has not been overlooked, but is far from being agreed upon. That is the farm bill with its provisions for crop control. It is a complicated and lengthy document, which few of the members of either house understand as yet. Nobody knows, so far, how much more the agricultural department's farm program would cost than the five hundred millions now available.

There is a bitter battle in prospect over the quotas to be allowed to various products, and an especially bitter difference of opinion about making quota allotments so mandatory that farmers may be put in jail if they exceed their allotted production. If any farm bill at all is enacted before the special session rises, it will surprise most observers.

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BRING IN THE TOYS

Pat McGuire, fire department chief, tells The Democrat that the citizenry is even tardier than usual in bringing used and broken toys to the city hall to be re-finished and repaired for needy children at Christmas. Mr. McGuire urges all those interested in this work to furnish the desired toys at once, so that it will be possible for the boys to have them ready for Christmas. At the last minute it is well nigh impossible for the members of the department to complete this work.

T. L. CRITCHER IS TAKEN BY DEATH

Prominent Business Man and Leader of Bamboo Section Succumbs Thursday

Thomas L. Critcher, pioneer merchant of the Bamboo section, a Masonic leader and one of the most substantial citizens of the county, died at the home last Thursday after a long period of failing health. The death of Mr. Critcher, who was 80 years old, came after a serious illness of only a few days.

Funeral services were conducted Friday afternoon from the Mount Vernon Baptist church, in the home neighborhood, Rev. W. C. Payne being in charge of the obsequies, and burial was in the Critcher cemetery. There was a large outpouring of friends for the rites, many from Boone and other points going to pay their respects. Mr. Will Cook led the hymn singing during the course of the services. The Masons were in charge of the burial.

Surviving are the widow, Mrs. Lizzie Critcher; one son, Ira C. Critcher of Boone; and one daughter, Mrs. Chas. E. Vannoy of Boone. Two brothers and two sisters also survive: A. M. Critcher, Blowing Rock; Chas. Critcher, Zionville; Mrs. J. M. Elrod, Hudson; and Mrs. Ida Coffey, Lenoir.

Born in Watauga

Mr. Critcher was born in Watauga county, a son of the late Guilford A. and Mrs. Critcher, and spent his entire life in the county. As a young man he entered the mercantile business, in which he was engaged for more than half a century. Through his many fine traits of character, Mr. Critcher was, early in life, recognized as an outstanding citizen. He was a faithful member of the Baptist church, had sincere religious convictions, and was a kind and helpful neighbor. He was one of the oldest Masons in the county, and was past master of Watauga Lodge, No. 273. Mr. Critcher found time away from his mercantile business to engage in farming and to do some surveying. No more honorable or popular citizen than he resided in this county—broad-minded, public-spirited, kind and generous, and there is cause for deep sorrow in his passing.

BOOK BY BOONE AUTHOR ON SALE

"Greater Love Hath No Man," Written by David P. Allison Has Good Prospects

David P. Allison, Boone author, has just received half a dozen copies of his new volume of fiction, "Greater Love Hath No Man," which came from the presses of the Eerdman's Publishing Co., Grand Rapids, Mich., last week. Walker's Jewelry Store is featuring the volumes for the Christmas trade and the demand is said to be brisk.

The volume which is dedicated to the memory of the author's father, David James Allison, "a son of the mountains," weaves its plot about a 50-year-old mountain feud into which Eric Brown unknowingly ventured as he sought material in the Virginia mountains for a Civil War novel. His stay was filled with romance and high adventure. His friendship with big Jim Callum, the growth of a Christ-like love in Jim's great heart and the sacrifice which brings the feud to an end—this is an unforgettable and dramatic tale.

In the pages of the volume the South comes to life, and the author's knowledge of the region and deep love for it, has brought about a story, every minute of which is filled with rare enjoyment.

URGE EARLY USE OF MAILS AS TO HOLIDAY PARCELS

Postmaster Hartzog and Other Postmasters Urge Co-operation of the Public in Packaging and Mailing Christmas Gifts This Year

The Boone postoffice, as well as other offices throughout the county, especially urge the people of Boone and Watauga county to mail their Christmas greetings and parcels early this year.

Conditions now indicate that this will be a banner year for the postal service and with the co-operation of the mailer each card and package is expected to be delivered on time.

Parcels that are destined for the greater distances should be mailed immediately, and those for nearby states should be mailed at least a week before Christmas. No mail service will be given on Christmas day as the postoffice department at Washington wants its employees as far as possible to spend the day with their families.

Postmaster Hartzog wishes to emphasize the fact that all parcels must be packed properly for transmission through the mails.

Parcels of a fragile nature must be packed in excelsior, or similar packing, and covered with a strong cardboard or wooden box. Boxes of candy or fruits must be of such a nature as to hold the contents should they become broken or crushed.

Christmas greeting cards require the same rate as last year of one and one-half cents if unsealed. Such cards may not be forwarded or returned if undelivered. It is suggested that three cents be placed on the more expensive ones. This will guarantee return or forwarding as well as handling same as other first class mail.

Specific information concerning insurance, special delivery, air mail, etc., will be gladly furnished at the postoffice.

UTES FOR ROBY BROWN TODAY

Aged and Popular Citizen of Route 2 Succumbs Wednesday Morning

At press time The Democrat learns of the death this (Wednesday) morning of Mr. Bartlett Roby Brown, an outstanding citizen of Route 2, which occurred after a long period of declining health, brought about by an incurable ailment.

Funeral details are not completed as this is written, but it is said that the services will be held at the late residence Thursday afternoon, and interment will be in the family cemetery.

Surviving are five sons: W. O. and G. G. and Roscoe Brown, Boone; Claude Brown, Heaton; Ronda Butte, Montana.

Mr. Brown, who was reared in this county, was one of the finest type of citizens to be found in this region, and his death is deeply mourned. More detailed information concerning the death of this good man will be published when it is available.

FOY ANN DAVIS

Foy Ann Davis, two and a-half months old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Davis, of Boone, who are temporarily residing at Crab Orchard, W. Va., died Saturday morning. The baby hadn't been ill previously.

Rev. E. W. Powers conducted the funeral services and interment was in Mount Tabor Memorial cemetery, Beckley, W. Va., with H. T. Caffee & Son taking care of the arrangements.

The only survivors in the immediate family are the bereaved parents.

STUNT NIGHT

The annual stunt night will be observed at the Demonstration school in Boone Saturday evening, at 7:30. There will be an admission charge of 10 and 25 cents, the proceeds to go to the benefit of the school library.

HICKS CHILD

A two-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Arnie Hicks of Baird's Creek, died last Thursday and the funeral and interment was in the home neighborhood. The parents are the only immediate survivors.

This Is Serious Business



Composing a letter to Santa is indeed serious business. The writing may not be literary, but he usually manages to fill the orders.

Happy Holiday Crowds Throng Streets Saturday

Traffic was practically blocked by the crowds of children and grown-ups who packed the streets Saturday evening for the official opening of the Christmas shopping season, and for the long heralded visit of Santa Claus. The jolly old gentleman arrived on schedule time in a small wagon, filled with gifts for the kiddies and drawn by a fast-stepping Shetland pony. Some hundreds of children raced back and forth through town for another glimpse of Santa Claus, who was kept busy tossing gifts from his huge pack to the gleeful youngsters.

Business men believe that the throng present for the opening was the largest, on any similar occasion, in the history of the town, and long after St. Nicholas was resting from his strenuous evening, hundreds of people remained on the streets, under the brilliantly illuminated evergreen chains, passing in and out of the stores at intervals and making preparations for the filling of their gift lists.

All the stores are now arrayed in their Christmas embellishments, the holiday goods are attractively displayed, and prospects for a record business between now and Christmas are said to be bright. The city governing unit is joining with the merchants association and with individual merchants in welcoming holiday shoppers, and by the end of the week the streets will be filled with men, women and children from all parts of this and surrounding counties.

TUBERCULAR SEAL SALE ANNOUNCED

Boone Elementary School Disposes of \$21 Worth of Health Stickers

The city of Boone is to be canvassed the end of the week for the sale of Christmas seals furnished by the Tubercular Association, the proceeds of which go toward the fight against tuberculosis.

Mrs. G. K. Moose, the chairman of the campaign, is most anxious that there be as ready a response to the appeal in the city as there was in the Boone school.

The Boone elementary school sold a total of \$21.00 worth of the seals. The sixth grade led in sales with Miss Josephine Miller selling \$2.63 worth. The grades sold stamps as follows:

Grade 1, Miss Moore	\$1.00
Grade 1, Miss Fleming	1.00
Grade 2, Miss Brandon	1.00
Grade 2, Miss Robinson	1.00
Grade 3, Miss Weaver	1.00
Grade 3, Mrs. Clay	1.00
Grade 4, Miss Austin	1.00
Grade 4, Miss Goodman	1.00
Grade 5, Miss Trivette	1.00
Grade 5, Mrs. Howell	1.00
Grade 6, Miss Sigmon	1.00
Grade 6, Mr. Rivers	5.00
Grade 7, Mr. Cole	1.45
Grade 7, Miss Todd	3.55
Total	\$21.00

The student-teachers in the elementary school very graciously accepted the responsibility of selling \$15.00 worth. More than ten dollars has already been turned in to Mrs. Moose.

EMPTY STOCKING FUND IS STARTED

New River Light and Power Company Pledges Fifty Dollars to Community Chest

The New River Light & Power Company dispensed with its usual prize contest for the most attractively decorated Christmas tree this year, and paid fifty dollars in cash as a starter for the Firemen's Community Chest Fund. It is hoped that this liberal contribution will be followed by many others to the end that destitute children of this community will enjoy a more completely happy Christmas this year than ever before.

The Watauga Democrat is subscribing ten dollars to the fund, and the amounts contributed by other firms and individuals will be reported in these columns next week. Contributions may be left with the Watauga Democrat or with Pat McGuire, chief of the fire department.

FRIGID WEATHER

Boone and this entire region have been visited by the most severe winter weather for the past few days, experienced in this section in December for the past many years. Mercury struck the zero mark in practically all sections Monday evening, and the plummeting temperatures were accompanied by a considerable fall of snow.

Dr. Robert King, of the district health office, announce that in the future he will be in the office here on Saturdays until 4:30 p. m., but will not be in the office on Mondays as heretofore.

APOPLEXY FATAL TO J.C. FLETCHER; FUNERAL SUNDAY

Former Boone Attorney Succumbs in Lenoir Hospital at Age of 69; Prominent Leader in Masonic and Civic Endeavors

Funeral services were conducted Sunday afternoon in Lenoir for J. C. Fletcher, 69, native Watauga and prominent attorney, who died in that city Friday evening from a sudden stroke of apoplexy. Many Wataugas attended the rites which were conducted from the First Methodist church by the pastor, Rev. J. S. Hiatt, the services at the graveside in Bellevue cemetery being under the direction of the Masonic fraternity.

Born in the Cove Creek section of Watauga county on December 18, 1868, Mr. Fletcher was the youngest child in a family of five. He was the son of the late Spencer Fletcher and Emaline Wilson, of this county.

His father died when the young boy was two years of age and he assisted his mother with the support of the family. He was educated in the common schools of the county, and was given some college education.

He lived on his farm until reaching the age of 17 years and then studied law for two years. He was ready for the bar at the age of 20, but had to wait until reaching his majority to being the practice of his chosen profession.

He was licensed to practice law at the February term of the supreme court of 1890. He began to practice law at Burnsville in Yancey county in the fall of 1890. He moved to Boone in 1893, where he remained until 1913 when he began work as a title attorney for the United States department of agriculture.

Since that time he has passed on the title of perhaps 500,000 acres of land for the government.

(Continued on page four)

SCHOLARSHIP IS GIVEN JOE BROWN

Watauga Boy Gains State College Scholarship for Baby Beef Endeavors

Joe Brown, 14-year-old Watauga 4-H Club member, has been awarded a one-year scholarship to State College for his excellent record in 4-H baby beef work this year, according to an announcement made by L. H. Harrell, 4-H Club leader at State College. The award came through the National Cotton Products Association.

The Hereford calf weighed 470 pounds when Joe acquired him last April. During a 164-day feeding period the calf gained an average of 3.1 pounds a day. He ate 2,445 pounds of corn, 247 pounds of oats, 404 pounds of cottonseed meal, 796 pounds of hay and 110 pounds of bran during that time. And from April to September he was on a nurse cow.

In the show ring Joe and the calf won first and grand championships at the Watauga county fair, first in heavyweight in the fat steer class, and reserve championship in the 4-H baby beef show.

The calf also won first place in the open show at the state fair and was named grand champion of the Asheville fat stock show. His prize winnings totaled \$69.16.

At the conclusion of the Asheville exhibition the Hereford weighed 1,000 pounds and was sold at auction for \$205 or 20.5 cents a pound. The calf cost Joe \$566.70, and the expenses were \$133.47. The profit was \$87.10, plus a scholarship valued at \$80.

H. M. Hamilton, assistant county agent, states that Joe "petted, pampered and fed the calf in such a manner as would put any good Scotch herdsman to shame."

SANTA COMING AGAIN

The tremendous ovation given Santa Claus on his visit to the city Saturday evening, has caused the rotund old gentleman to decide to make a return trip to Boone next Saturday, when he will again have goodies for the children. Santa Claus is expected to arrive in town sometime early in the afternoon.