

# WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

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\$1.50 A YEAR

## The Week in Washington

A RESUME OF GOVERNMENTAL HAPPENINGS IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

Washington, Dec. 21—Since a day or two after Thanksgiving newly-elected senators and members of the house of representatives have been flocking into Washington to make their arrangements for the session which begins on January 3. They have occupied themselves with arranging for living quarters for themselves and their families, if any, and putting in their applications for particular offices they desire, which are about to be vacated by members who were not re-elected.

To most of these newcomers the atmosphere of Washington is not entirely familiar, but for many it is the first experience of being on the inside looking out instead of on the outside looking in.

Naturally, they have been making inquiries as to what there is in their new jobs, besides the glory of being in congress and the task of taking a hand in shaping the nation's laws. What they have learned about the money value of their jobs has frankly surprised some of them. Few persons outside of congress realize what a comfortable position financially, senators and representatives occupy.

There is the salary, to start with, \$10,000 a year for each member of each house.

### 20 Cents For Mileage

Then there is the mileage. Every senator and representative is entitled to draw 20 cents a mile for the distance from his home to Washington, when the session begins, and back home again when the session ends.

By a member from Maryland or Virginia, who can get to Washington in an hour or two, the mileage is not a big item; but a member from California gets around \$1,300 each session, while his railroad fare, including a Pullman lower berth, runs to less than \$300, making a thousand dollars clear profit. He draws his mileage whether he goes home between sessions or not.

Then comes the item of clerk hire. Each senator is allowed to hire four clerks and Uncle Sam allows him \$10,320 a year for that service. The only restriction is that he may not call on the government to pay his secretary or any other clerk more than \$3,900 a year—\$75 a week. Of course, he can pay as much more as he wants to out of his own pocket, and there are instances of wealthy senators who turn over their own salaries to their secretaries. Most of them are more thrifty, however.

There is no restriction upon whom a senator or representative may employ, so many of them put their wives on the payroll as their secretaries and sometimes their sons or daughters as clerks, thus keeping the money in the family.

Vice President Garner's official secretary for many years has been Mrs. Garner, and it is only fair to say that in the opinion of those who know she does a magnificent job of managing the work of the vice president's office, as she did when he was a representative in the lower house.

Members of the house of representatives get only a \$5,000 annual allowance for clerk hire, with the same limitation of \$3,900 as the top salary officially paid to the secretary.

### Postage Is Free

Then there is free postage. Senators and representatives have the "franking privilege." They can send letters or any other sort of mail matter anywhere without using stamps.

Another source of revenue for the thrifty senator or representative is the stationery allowance of \$125 a year. A member can use up his allowance in carbon paper, rubber bands, erasers and typewriter ribbons if he wants to; or he need not use any stationery at all, in which case he can draw full allowance in cash.

Then each member has his own suite of private offices in the handsome marble buildings adjacent to the capital. The offices are all large and expensively furnished in solid mahogany and leather. Representatives who are not charimen of committees have to put up with two rooms and a waiting room. There are private lavatories and baths attached to each of those suites, and a constant supply of clean towels and soap.

A thrifty representative or senator really does not need to pay room rent if he is unmarried; he can set up a comfortable daybed in his inner office and do all his sleeping there. The late Senator Park Trammell of Florida lived in his office for several years and made no bones about it.

Senators get other free services which not all representatives share. (Continued on page four)

## MEANEST MAN PAYS A VISIT

The Democrat does not know the name of its candidate as the "meanest man" in the community, but he dragged his slimy form through the office of the county newspaper Sunday and made away with an envelope marked "Empty Stocking Fund" and containing \$4.50 donated by citizens of the community with the view to providing Christmas joy to some destitute kiddies next Sunday morning. The envelope even carried the names of the donors of the funds!

The publisher admits a degree of carelessness in leaving the funds entrusted to his care in a drawer in his private desk, and gladly replaces the money in the fund. He has ten dollars more which he will give for evidence upon which he can cause a warrant to be issued for the arrest of the human insect, who infamously bears the image of his God.

## J. W. JONES DIES IN SAN DIEGO

Son of Mrs. J. W. Jones, of U. S. Marines Succumbs; Funeral to Be in Boone

J. W. Jones, Jr., aged 24 years, son of Mrs. J. W. Jones and the late Dr. Jones of this city, and for more than three years a member of the United States Marine Corps, died in San Diego, California, last Friday, after having undergone an appendix operation in a naval hospital there. Peritonitis was given as the immediate cause of his death. An uncle, Tom Jones, who has been with the marines for 25 years, was with him at the time of his death.

The body is being returned to Boone for burial and is expected to arrive here Saturday. The funeral will likely take place on Christmas day, but no definite plans can be formulated until the body, with its military escort arrives. The body is to lie in state at the Methodist church for an hour preceding the funeral service and a large crowd of friends will gather for the obsequies for the popular young man. A naval funeral service was conducted in San Diego Monday morning, shortly after which the funeral party entrained.

Surviving in the immediate family is the bereaved mother and one sister, Miss Maudie Jean Jones.

"Jay" Jones, as the deceased was familiarly known in this city, was reared here, where he attended Appalachian College. He had spent three and a half years of a four-year enlistment in the Marine Corps, and last April was returned to San Diego from China, where he had spent the greater part of the time since he enlisted. Jay did professional boxing in Shanghai, and as "Sluggo Jones" came to be well known in pugilistic circles. He was most popular in his home neighborhood, where he numbered his friends by his acquaintances and where his death has caused great sorrow.

### BETHEL 4-H CLUB

The Bethel 4-H club met on December 8, with Miss Elizabeth Bridge and Mr. H. M. Hamilton. The following officers were elected for the coming year: President, Johnny O'Neal; vice-president, Reed Harmon; secretary and treasurer, Margaret Perry; reporter, Aileen Greene; song leader, Dorothy Farthing.

Miss Bridge gave the girls some recipes for Christmas candy. Mr. Hamilton discussed with the boys their projects for the coming year. A book of national 4-H songs was given to the song leader. The club hopes to do some good work in the coming year.

## Bethel High School and Community News

On account of one of the players having measles, the play, "Ten Nights in a Barroom," will not be given until after the holidays.

The REA forces are making rapid progress in putting in poles and wiring houses in this community.

Misses Mattie Lou Harmon and Mabel Farthing spent Monday night with Mr. and Mrs. Smith Harmon of Beech Creek.

Mid-term examinations are being held in all the grades of Bethel high school this week.

County Superintendent W. H. Walker visited the school Monday.

Several WPA workers under the supervision of Mr. Granville Hagan are working on the school grounds this week.

## J. D. BROWN TAKEN BY DEATH AT 77

Prominent Blowing Rock Farmer and Churchman Succumbs; Funeral Monday

Mr. J. D. Brown, aged 77 years, one of the leading citizens of Blowing Rock, and a prominent churchman and farmer, died at the home there Sunday, after a long period of illness, which became more acute following a slight stroke of paralysis last spring. The immediate cause of Mr. Brown's death was given as apoplexy.

Funeral services were conducted Monday at 1 o'clock from the Blowing Rock Baptist church, Reverends Fletcher, Ashley, Shore and Canipe of the Baptist church, and Rev. Sexton Buchanan, Presbyterian minister, taking part in the rites. Interment was in the newly-opened cemetery near Blowing Rock. The floral offering was impressive and a large number of friends from various sections attended the services.

Survivors include the widow, the former Miss Ettie Sudderth, six sons and three daughters, who are leading citizens of their respective localities: James H. Brown, Phoenix, Ariz.; Conor D. Brown, Spokane, Wash.; J. Clark Brown, Jefferson; Kent and Glenn Brown, Blowing Rock, and Wade E. Brown, Boone attorney; Mrs. Rosedna Garvey, Winston-Salem; Mrs. Nell Banner, Americus, Ga.; Mrs. Gladys Lee, Greenville, S. C. Two brothers, Zeb Brown, Lincoln; Chas. Brown, Hillsboro; and one sister, Mrs. Fannie Bishop of Lincoln, also survive.

Mr. Brown was a son of the late Herbert and Mrs. Brown of Alexander county, but he spent his entire adult life in Watauga county, where he became one of her finest citizens. He was married in 1886 to Miss Ettie Sudderth, sister of George M. Sudderth, Blowing Rock millmaster, and the family resided at Seaside Mills and Blowing Rock.

Mr. Brown was a farmer by occupation and succeeded well. He was an active churchman and was a charter member of both the Shulls Mills and Blowing Rock Baptist churches. He had been a member of the board of deacons of the Blowing Rock church since its establishment. He was a Mason, and had served at different times as member of the local school board. Mr. Brown spent a life of devotion to his church, his family and his fellow citizens and was held in the highest regard on account of his many admirable traits of character.

## Christmas Seal Sale Progresses

Mrs. G. R. Moose, chairman of the local committee for the sale of the anti-tuberculosis Christmas seals, states that there has been a good response during the campaign, and that more than \$40 have already been turned in from the sale of the health stickers. The returns from the city and county are as yet incomplete, but following is the report of receipts to date:

Boone Demonstration school	\$22.39
Boone High school	6.70
Boone school for colored	.40
Appalachian College	11.00
Total	\$40.49

## County Officials To Observe Holiday

The county offices will close at noon Saturday and remain closed until 9 o'clock Tuesday morning, so that the officials and their helpers may have a holiday respite from their labors. Those having business at the courthouse should bear the closing time in mind and thus avoid inconvenience.

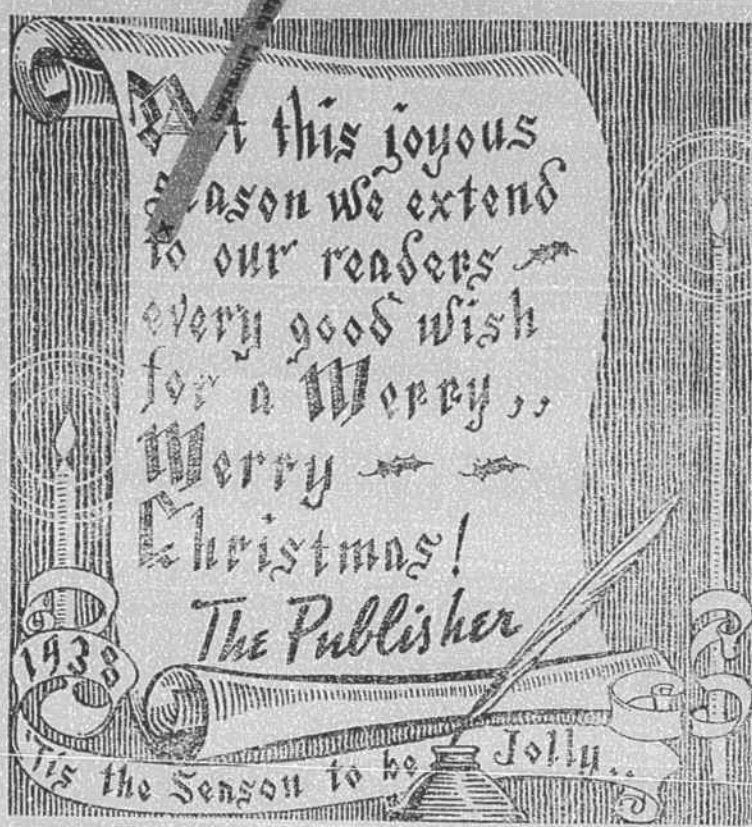
### IN ROANOKE HOSPITAL

Mr. Joseph Powell of Bristol, Va., Route 1, is in Jefferson hospital, Roanoke, Va., and has been for two weeks, where he had two surgical operations. His son, John Powell, accompanied him to the hospital. Mr. Powell will leave the hospital in a week or ten days.

## EMPTY STOCKING FUND

Following is a list of those contributing to the empty stocking fund, sponsored by The Democrat and the City Fire Department. Other contributions are expected to be made later in the week:

Previously reported	\$14.50
Appalachian Theatre	5.00
C. H. Trotter	1.00
W. H. Gragg	1.00
Miss Jennie Todd	1.00
Total	\$22.50



## The Beginning of Christmas

The following Christmas story came from the pen of Jim Rivers, former Democrat columnist, many years ago, and furnishes a good Christmas-week feature for this edition:

ALONG the rough trails of Judea, the scattered sons of David hastened toward Bethlehem . . . an order had been issued by Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed, that each man and his wife and offspring should return to the land of his birth for enumeration. And the writ of Caesar was law . . . Childs coursed down the slopes of the oppressed hill-sides as they read the stern ultimatum posted conspicuously in the market places.

Cameled were packed for the long journey home by those whose industry had brought forth these expensive chattels . . . litters, borne by ebony slaves were employed to transport affluent Hebrews from adopted habitations to the sleepy little village. In crude vehicles, astride lowly domestic animals, on foot . . . they wended their way across the Galilean border to carry out the wishes of an ambitious emperor.

A jaded donkey halted near the outskirts of Bethlehem . . . a woman whose comely face was drawn by the pangs of approaching deliverance, slumped forward on the animal's back. The stalwart husband came to her side, worried and sore afraid. "Can you make it into the village, Mary?" inquired the distressed man. Mary guessed she could. And they trudged on as day gave way to twilight.

Bethlehem was booming. A Syrian overlord with his glittering entourage of patronizing yes-men had swooped down from the northlands . . . a hundred Roman soldiers in full armor had arrived to see that Caesar was not denied his tribute. Harpies from surrounding villages had gathered in as vultures follow the herd . . . tavern-keepers smiling as they drew from dusty cellars rare red vintages for the exacting appetites of the convivial publicans. Yes, business was at flood tide in a village which for untold years had laid in lethargy. Even the vain Herod, tetrarch of Galilee, had sent a group of smirking ambassadors to bid the tax-gatherers welcome . . . and ladies of his court for their amusement.

Joseph halted his donkey at the inn's entrance . . . spoke reassuring words to the suffering woman, anxiously surveyed the meagre store of shooks in his purse . . . and entered the doorway. Embarrassment was written on his features as he haltingly explained his predicament to the keen-eyed innkeeper . . . his worn garments were covered with the dust of travel . . . his large hands bore the rough callouses of honest toil. The inn-keeper was not in mood to lend his attention to the ailments of lowly pilgrims . . . illustrious guests were demanding his services . . . Joseph, Mary and her precious burden sought shelter from the elements in a nearby stable.

Shepherds were watching over their flocks in the hills of Judea . . . conversation had waned . . . the night air carried a stinging chill . . . the men huddled close together. The peaceful fields were suddenly illuminated with dazzling light! An angel appeared in the midst of the startled herdsmen . . . a chorus of cherubs drifted down from on high, and blended their golden voices in glad hosannas.

The angel smiled as he made his brief announcement . . . "Behold I bring you tidings of great joy, which shall be unto all people: FOR UNTO YOU IS BORN THIS DAY IN THE CITY OF DAVID, A SAVIOR, WHICH IS CHRIST THE LORD! And this shall be a sign unto you; ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger." The angelic chorus caroled a happy anthem: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, Peace, Goodwill toward men."

The snowy wings rustled . . . the heavens swallowed their triumphant messengers. And the shepherds gathered their cloaks about them and hastened to Bethlehem that they might see with their own eyes that which the angel had made known to them. In a squalid manger back of the crowded inn they came upon the object of their search . . . Joseph and Mary and a new born Babe, which was to bear the name of Jesus!

Back to their flocks went the jubilant shepherds, shouting praises to God for the son He'd sent to a decadent world . . . telling their neighbors of the blessed event!

From Jerusalem came a trinity of wise men, under hypocritical orders from the treacherous Herod to seek the Christ Child . . . and a star of wondrous brilliance guided them to the straw pallet, whereon lay the saintly virgin and her sinless offspring. Straightway they knew that the words of the great prophet had been fulfilled . . . down on their knees they worshipped the tiny Saviour . . . and from chests they dragged gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to lay by His side.

From the inn came discordant sounds of maudlin revelry . . . an Eastern potentate boasted of his royal lineage, of the strength of his armies and of the power of his estate. But Mary of Nazareth, daughter of a commoner, heard them not . . . close to her bosom she held the infinite object she had brought forth . . . her fingers caressed the shapely little head that was destined to wear a cruel crown of thorns . . . she lovingly traced soft little shoulders that one day would bear a heavy cross to the crest of Calvary . . . she counted the dimples on chubby little hands that a few years later were to be pierced by the spikes of crucifixion . . . her lips brushed a little mouth out of which was to flow the great promise of man's immortality! And Mary softly hummed a soothing lullaby to the Child in her strong young arms . . . like all mothers, she was proud of her baby!

Thus Jesus Christ was born of the blessed virgin in the village of Bethlehem which is in Judea!

## STORES CLOSED ON NEXT MONDAY; TRADE IS GOOD

Merchants Staying Open This Week in Effort to Serve Holiday Shoppers; Brisk Christmas Trade Noted During Past Week

The stores of the city as well as the public offices will be closed next Monday all day for a Christmas holiday, it was announced Tuesday from the offices of the Merchants Association. It is indicated that the closing will be general, regardless of membership in the retail organization. As heretofore, however, drug stores, cafes and service stations will remain open as usual for the most part.

The merchants are staying open during this week until nine o'clock each evening in order to render the greatest degree of service to holiday shoppers and ample sales forces have been secured to take care of the last minute rush with dispatch.

Hundreds of people jammed the streets and shops of the city last Friday and Saturday and reports from merchants indicate heavy holiday buying, with prospects that this week will boost holiday sales to a much higher figure than last year. Dry goods establishments report a particularly heavy trade the last of the week.

## BURLEY GROWERS AGAINST CONTROL

Watauga County Burley Growers Oppose Federal Control; Two-thirds Majority Fails in Belt

Watauga county tobacco growers last Saturday turned thumbs down on federal control of weed production by the tune of six to one, and at the same time other states throughout the burley belt, failed to endorse the federal "quota system" by the necessary two-thirds majority. The vote in Watauga county's five precincts was as follows:

	For Control	Against Control
Cove Creek	20	225
Beaver Dam	19	87
Boone	24	79
Watauga	6	41
Laurel Creek	13	115
Totals	87	547

Late figures indicate that throughout the burley belt, 124,973 growers favored the quota system, while 82,919 were opposed. The percentage in favor was 61.1, while under the federal act a two-thirds vote is essential. Thus, there will be no regulations covering the production of tobacco in 1939.

## HYBRID CORN IS NOT READY FOR N. C. USE

North Carolina farmers are advised by Dr. Gordon K. Middleton, State College agronomist, to wait a year or two before using hybrid corn. Tests carried on for three years have shown that the hybrid corn seed imported from other states is not well adapted to conditions in this state and it is therefore necessary that adapted varieties be developed.

To meet this condition, Dr. Middleton and Dr. Paul H. Harvey, associate agronomist, are conducting greenhouse experiments of inbreeding and field tests to check yields. In this way they will be able, possibly by 1940, to recommend hybrid corn which will meet expectations under North Carolina conditions.

Yield tests were conducted during the past summer at the Mountain Branch experiment station at Swannanoa, at the Upper Coastal Plain station near Rocky Mount and on the Whitley-Davis farm at Clayton. In summing up the results of these tests, Dr. Middleton says:

"At Swannanoa only one commercial variety and one experimental hybrid outyielded the best local variety, and that by less than six per cent. In tests at Clayton and Rocky Mount, with very few exceptions, hybrids brought in from a distance showed lack of adaptation. They were mostly starchy and very light in weight.

"The 1938 results do no warrant the recommending of any commercial hybrids at this time, but it is possible recommendations can be made for farm trials in a small way in 1940."