



Happy NEW YEAR



WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

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The Week in Washington

A RESUME OF GOVERNMENTAL HAPPENINGS IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL.

Washington, Dec. 27—The United States "recognized" the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics, otherwise Russia, as a legitimate nation, on November 16, 1933. There are a great many people in high places in Washington who wish that we had never established diplomatic relations with the Communist government, but who don't see any way to take it back, short of practically declaring war on Russia.

Such nations as the Netherlands, Switzerland, Yugo-Slavia and Portugal, who consistently refused to take Russia seriously, are in a better position than is this country. For the act of formally breaking off diplomatic relations with any nation is always a prelude to war, and we don't want to go to war, formally with Russia or any other country.

The League of Nations has expelled Russia because its attack on Finland gives the lie to all of the Russian protestations of peaceful intentions toward the rest of the world. The federal government in Washington is doing all that can be done short of war to help Finland.

A government subsidiary, the Export-Import Bank, has lent 10 million dollars to Finland to enable that country to buy whatever it needs from this country or any where else, except implements of war.

The American Red Cross, which is a quasi-government institution with the President of the United States as its president ex-officio, is acting as an agency to transmit supplies of every kind to Finland. Former President Hoover is heading a volunteer, unofficial committee to raise funds to assist Finland. "In the Dog House"

Very definitely, Russia is "in the dog house" so far as official Washington is concerned. The American ambassador, Mr. Steinhart, is still in Moscow, or was at last reports, and Mr. Oumansky, the Russian ambassador, still occupies the magnificent palace which is Russia's embassy in Washington. But nobody goes to Mr. Oumansky's parties any more, not even the young enthusiasts who "sold" President Roosevelt on the idea of recognizing the Communist government of Russia.

It would be putting it too strongly to say that anybody in important federal government circles is an out-and-out Communist, in the sense of being a member of the Communist party, but it is undeniable that many of them, filled with the spirit of social uplift, believed that Russia had found the answer to their troubles of the under-dog by its highly-publicized scheme of putting all the workers into co-operative units and taking all the land and wealth away from those who had it.

Intellectuals Quieting Down
Any suggestion that perhaps the stories of the contrary which leaked out of Russia were not quite true used to be met with jibes and sneers by the earnest young intellectuals of whom had the ear of the people in every high place. Now, whatever their real beliefs, they are singing small, in the face of the popular wave of indignation over Russia's conduct, first in making an alliance with Hitler, who stands for all that Communists profess to hate, and now in cracking down on a little nation hardly a tenth its size, a nation, moreover, which has won the ungrudging respect of everybody.

The Russo-Finnish situation has a definite bearing on the activities of the Dies committee of the house of representatives, the official title of which is "The Committee to Investigate 'Un-American Activities in the United States.'" The Dies committee has been hot on the trail of Communists.

There has been no suggestion that anybody who wants to be a Communist is not at liberty to be one, or that anybody should be prevented from preaching Communist doctrine. That is a liberty guaranteed by the Bill of Rights. But what the Dies committee has been trying to do is to "smell out" Communists who do not openly acknowledge their affiliation, to discover whether they are really secret agents of Russia trying to undermine the American system and to bring their operations out into the open.

Undercover Work Going On
Evidence thus far given before the committee has satisfied many observers that undercover work by Communists directly in the pay of Russia has been going on for a long time and that many persons in many walks of life have been led into giving support to Communist-inspired activities in the honest belief.

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Aids Finn Relief



New York.—Herbert Hoover, former President, who has taken over the administration of the Finnish relief movement in this country. He has traveled from coast to coast to confer with Finnish relief organizations and Scandinavian societies on the question of aiding Finland in her war against Russia.

BOONE CITIZENS ENJOY A QUIET CHRISTMAS DAY

No Traffic Accidents on County Highways During Holidays; Retail Business the Best in Years; Postoffice Force Handles Huge Mails

Boone people enjoyed a Christmas of the old-time variety... one of those quiet holidays spent about family hearthstones. King Winter treated the children of the county to a light snow on Saturday night, and despite clear skies, much of the white blanket remained on the ground during Monday.

Motor traffic on the county's highways was extremely light over the holiday week-end, and no traffic accidents have been reported. Boone's police chief, Edward B. Mast, states that fourteen arrests were made Saturday night amongst the hundreds of celebrants who came to the city. All were charged with drunkenness.

Retail establishments of the city report the best Christmas business in years, and the employees of the Boone postoffice were swamped with the heaviest mails in history. Postmaster Wiley G. Hartzog states that 44,800 1½-cent stamps were sold during the two weeks preceding Christmas, 12,800 more than were sold in a similar period last year. Mr. Hartzog is of the opinion that last week's receipts of the local office were fully twice as large as during the rush week of 1938.

Local business men this week are engaged in the inventory of stocks, preparatory to the reopening of Mountain Burley Warehouse next Tuesday.

Father of Boone Man Buried In Troy Friday

J. Ed Agle, 72, of Troy, father of Bob Agle, Boone business man, died in Rowan Memorial hospital last Wednesday following an illness of more than a week with a heart ailment. Funeral services were held Friday at Troy, and the body was taken to Albemarle, where he had spent most of his long life, for burial.

Mr. Agle was born in Cabarrus county, but during his youth became a resident of Albemarle. He served several terms as justices of the peace and constable, and for many years was connected with a grocery establishment. Prominent in the religious life of his community, he was an active member of the Baptist church.

The deceased man is survived by the following children: Mrs. J. W. Covington, Ellerbe; E. Heath Agle, Greensboro; Earl Agle, Durham; Mrs. Roy Dennis, Troy, and Bob Agle, Boone. Stepsons surviving are R. Guy Swearingen, Albemarle, and Sam Swearingen, Pittsboro.

WILLIS SMITH VISITOR

Willis Smith, Raleigh lawyer and formerly speaker of the house of representatives, visited with friends in the city Thursday. Mr. Smith does not deny his gubernatorial ambitions but his formal announcement has not yet been made.

DATE FOR OPENING BURLEY MARKET IS BEING CONSIDERED

Louisville Mart to Open January 8th; Some Houses in Immediate Territory Contend for Opening on 2nd; Tobacco Now Being Received

Whether the Mountain Burley Tobacco warehouse will hold its initial post-Christmas sales on the 2nd or the 8th, is a subject for immediate speculation and Wednesday morning a representative of Hardy Bros. was unable to state definitely when the season would reopen. It has, however, been announced that the Lexington, Ky., market would open on the 8th, but it is understood that some of the houses in the immediate area are contending for opening on the second. At any rate, it is pointed out, the Boone market will open for sales as early as any other house in the belt.

Meantime, the doors of the Boone market are now open, the weigher is on hand, and tobacco is arriving daily, with the prospect that no less than two million more pounds of the weed will be sold before the close of the season about the first of February. The continued dry weather which has hindered the grading and handling of tobacco during the fall was broken during Christmas, and tobacco is once again on the move. One farmer residing 15 miles from Asheville has notified local warehousemen that he will have his tobacco on the Boone floor and states that numbers of other Buncombe county farmers expect to follow suit. Present warehouse receipts are largely from Watauga, Ashe and Allegheny.

Before Christmas it is stated, 1,300,000 pounds of tobacco was sold here for an average of \$16.87 per hundred, being the highest average price for the belt.

Snow Lodge Names New Set of Officers

Following are the new officers for Snow Lodge, A. F. & A. M., which were elected at the December meeting:

W. W. Williams, worshipful master; Lee Stout, senior warden; R. E. Kelley, junior warden; T. M. Greer, treasurer; E. E. Garbee, secretary; G. G. Farthing, senior deacon; B. W. Stallings, junior deacon; R. D. Shoemaker, senior steward; Martin Herman, junior steward; Omar Baird, Tyler; Rev. E. D. Butt, chaplain; Russell D. Hodges, marshal.

WORK PROGRESSES ON SCENIC LAKE

Steam Shovel Busily Engaged on Tater Hill Development; Camp to Be Built

Work is going steadily forward on the construction of the lake on the Tater Hill property, according to S. C. Eggers, who is in charge of the huge recreational development. Mr. Eggers states that the bathing and fishing waters will be impounded by an earth and stone dam 100 feet thick at the base, 25 feet high and 300 feet long, covering four acres of land. Immediately upon completion of the lake, it will be thoroughly stocked with trout.

Mr. Eggers also states that work is to start at once on the construction of a girls' camp amid the giant pines on the lakeshore, and that bridge trails have been completed for riding.

The highway has already been completed to the summit of the mountain.

Chronology of Year Is Published Today

Reference is made to the chronological resume of the happenings of the year 1939, which is carried today in a full page feature. This page is of considerable worth for reference purposes, and many of our readers have found it worthwhile to keep it for future use.

J. J. BRITT DIES

Asheville, Dec. 26—Following a long illness, James J. Britt, former congressman from the tenth North Carolina district and Republican leader for many years, died here this morning.

SEEKS CONGRESSIONAL SEAT



Jim Rivers, of the Watauga Democrat staff, who on last Saturday announced his candidacy for the Democratic nomination as representative from the ninth district, subject to the primary May 25. (Photo by Weston)

RIVERS TO SEEK NINTH DISTRICT SEAT IN CONGRESS

Announcement of Local Newspaperman Indicates He Runs On Own Steam: Son of Pioneer Editor of Watauga Democrat; Primaries to Be Held May 25

Jim Rivers, Boone newspaper man, who has recently returned to the Democrat on last Saturday announced his candidacy for the ninth district Democratic congressional nomination, subject to the primary of May 25. The text of Mr. Rivers' announcement follows:

"With the usual nervousness of an amateur office-seeker, I am today announcing my candidacy for congress, ninth North Carolina district, subject to the Democratic nominating primary of May 25.

"The greater part of my adult life has been spent in the ordinary pursuits of an average citizen, and these passing years have imparted a certain knowledge of the problems which confront most North Carolinians. I would be unfair to myself and to the voters with whom the success or failure of my candidacy rests, were I to pose as a technician in statecraft. I deem it the fair, American way to unfold my case during the months which are to come, and to uncomplainingly accept the judgment of the majority as to my probable worth in the national assembly.

"No political clique, patriotic or paternal body has applied pressure to this, my initial public effort. The hundreds of letters and dozens of telegrams frequently mentioned by potential office-holders have not been received. In truth and in fact, no man or woman has urged me to make this race.

"I am a Democrat, have always been a Democrat, and take justifiable pride in my party's glorious achievements. However, it hasn't yet occurred to my mind that we should make proud history our eternal dwelling place, or presume that we have attained perfection in government.

"As an unsponsored, hence unfettered candidate, a sort of political free-lance, I am addressing myself in this big undertaking to not only the preferred share-holders of Democracy, but to those thousands of good, patriotic, intelligent men and women whose participation in party contests is devoid of the profit motive. Their will be done."

The Boone congressional aspirant is a son of the late Robert C. Rivers, for forty-five years publisher of the Watauga Democrat, and a brother of its present publisher, R. C. Rivers, Jr. He was born and reared here, received his education at old Appalachian Training school, now Appalachian State Teachers college, and has engaged in newspaper work since early manhood. He recently returned to the Democrat's staff after an absence of several months spent in the press division of the U. S. department of the interior.

H. Clay Hodges Dies Suddenly

H. Clay Hodges, who resided in the Sands community on Boone R. F. D. 2, died at the home Friday from a sudden illness. High blood pressure was given as the immediate cause of his death. He was 71 years old.

Funeral services were conducted from the home Sunday morning, Dr. F. E. Warman, pastor of the Advent Christian church in Boone, being in charge of the rites, and interment was in the nearby cemetery.

Surviving are the widow, one son and two daughters: Russell G. Hodges, North Wilkesboro; Mrs. Jas. A. Hodges, Boone, and Mrs. J. C. Norris, Boone.

Mr. Hodges was a son of the late Patterson Hodges and was born and reared in Watauga county, where he was held in high esteem as one of the county's substantial citizens. He was a member of the Boone Advent Christian church.

VIOLENT DEATHS TOTAL AT LEAST 665 FOR HOLIDAYS

Deaths by violence over the three-day Christmas holidays left a toll of at least 665 victims—far surpassing last year's list of 508—killed in a nation at peace.

Traffic accidents once more took the greatest harvest of lives with 432 fatalities.

Forty-six perished in fires, 52 died of gunshot wounds, stabbings and the like, and many a home was saddened by the death of children in coasting accidents—12 in New York state alone.

ESSO MARKETERS GIVE BABY PRIZES

Children Born On New Year's Day to Be Given Bank Accounts by Oil Company

In connection with the recent introduction of two new motor fuels, the Esso marketers have announced the distribution of cash awards to all babies born in their territory on January 1, 1940. This is a part of the large advertising campaign being conducted by Standard Oil Company, and which includes a liberal schedule in the local newspaper.

Five dollars, says the announcement, will be paid to each baby born January 1, each of a set of twins will receive \$100. In case of triplets, each will receive \$250. Quads and quintets, if any, are to receive \$1,500 each. The awards will be made in the form of a savings bank account to the credit of the baby. All the parent has to do to win is to present a copy of the birth certificate at any savings bank and the account will be opened immediately.

In the eighteen states and the District of Columbia, which are included in the offer, there are an average of 3,000 births daily. Of these there are an average of thirty-five twin births and one triplet birth.

COLD WAVE SPREADS OVER MORE OF NATION

Winter puffed cheeks and blew a blast of cold Wednesday which rolled off the Rockies all the day east to the Atlantic.

Snow rode the blast out of the already blanketed mountain and plains country east in New York and south into Virginia.

The southeast's farmers welcomed drought-breaking rain with the same gusto that farmers of the southwest's fast shrinking "dust bowl" greeted drought-breaking snows.

It was bitter cold over a wide range. Havre, Mont., and El Moro, N. M., shivered in 16 below zero. In New York, the forest ranger's school at Wanakena made even that look like warm weather by reporting 35 below. The thickly populated east, where transportation is its life blood, was plunged into a big snow battle. An army of 2,500 highway workers struggled against the worst wintry conditions in two years in Ohio. Southern sectors of that state had eight inches of snow, and more was forecast.

Although the length of the day varies with the latitude and season, every place on earth receives the same number of hours of daylight in the course of a year.

THEATRE PARTY WELL ATTENDED

Several Hundred Children Gathered at Showhouse and Receive Holiday Parcels

The Christmas party for underprivileged children, held at the Appalachian Theatre Sunday afternoon was attended by several hundred children, to whom quantities of toys and confections were distributed.

Mr. Clyde R. Greene acted as master of ceremonies, and following is the program rendered: Invocation, Rev. J. C. Canipe; Carol, combined church choirs; Charles Dickens' Christmas Carol, Miss Lala Clay; Santa Claus; Distribution of gifts, Santa Claus; Carol, choir; Benediction, Rev. Paul Townsend.

The sponsors of this event wish to express their appreciation to all those who assisted in any way toward the success of the party. Without the aid of the Watauga Democrat, the county welfare department, the city fire department and the NYA, the undertaking would have been impossible. The co-operation of the following in making cash contributions for the purpose of purchasing confections, is acknowledged: Mrs. F. A. Linney, Rob Rivers, Spainhour's, Dr. King, John Young, Friday Club, L. L. Critcher, E. E. Garbee, Bill Rush, Oliver Robertson.

FINS CROSS RUSSIAN BORDER AT TWO POINTS

Stockholm, Dec. 27.—Finnish troops made a crossing at a second point into Russian territory today, it was reported from the region east of Salla, where the Red army first set out to cut through Finland's "waistline."

The first crossing into Russian territory was officially reported several days ago at a point 230 miles south of Salla, near Lieksa. The Finns were reported to be holding their positions in the Lieksa area.

Copenhagen dispatches said a ski battalion was engaged in a daring thrust at the Murmansk railway, which is approximately 150 miles from the Finnish border at that point.

Paper One Day Late This Week

The Democrat comes to its readers one day late this week, due to the Christmas holiday period observed by the force. Next week the paper will be back on regular schedule, and will be published Wednesday.