

# WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

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## The Week in Washington

A RESUME OF GOVERNMENTAL HAPPENINGS IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL

Washington, Jan. 3.—With the convening of the second regular session of the 76th congress on January 3, the outstanding political issue of 1940 began to assume new shape, as senators and representatives met for the first time since the neutrality session of last fall.

That outstanding issue is the question whether Mr. Roosevelt desires and intends to run for a third term. Upon the final answer, either by the President himself or by the Democratic national convention when it meets, will hinge the fortunes of the nation for the next four years. If Mr. Roosevelt were to be renominated without a contest it is now the fixed opinion of most experienced political observers here that he would be re-elected. That would mean a continuation of the new deal for another four years.

Up to a few days ago it was the widespread belief that the decision was entirely up to Mr. Roosevelt himself and to nobody else. But since Vice President Garner has openly announced his own candidacy, doubts are being cast upon the validity of that assumption. Mr. Garner is an old, experienced and decidedly "cutsey" political manipulator. So long as it was merely his friends talking about him as a candidate it was possible to infer that he didn't want the nomination very seriously, at least not seriously enough to risk the wide open break in the Democratic party which his active pursuit of it would almost surely bring about.

**Reasonably Sure of Nomination?**

But now that the die is cast, and "Cactus Jack" is going out in dead earnest after the first prize, the political sharps are studying the situation from some new angles.

It does not seem probable to those who have made the study of national politics and political figures their chief concern for many years that the gentleman from Texas would make his bid for the nomination unless he felt reasonably sure that he could get it. Under the rules of the party, adopted in 1936, no longer takes a two-thirds majority to nominate, only a majority of one more than half the number of delegates, as in the Republican conventions. And it is not at all impossible, the students of Democratic disaffection with the new deal think, that Mr. Garner may already have up his sleeve enough assurances from party leaders who will control their state delegations to give him that one-more-than-half.

The alternative to such a conviction on Mr. Garner's part, in the opinion of the experts, is that he would prefer a wide-open party split and possibly even a "rump" convention in case Mr. Roosevelt should be re-nominated, to the re-election of the President. It may (Continued on page four)

## Bible School To Start Next Monday

Rev. J. C. Canipe has announced that his annual winter Bible school will start next Monday evening at the Boone Baptist church, and will continue each Monday and Wednesday night during January and February.

Each Monday night at 7 o'clock, the study will be Old Testament prophets and their messages for the world. Each Wednesday the subjects will be the Acts of the Apostles, using the Book of Acts. Rev. Mr. Canipe cordially invites all the pastors and preaches of the county. Sunday school superintendents and officers, as well as those teachers who want to learn more about the Bible. All friends who would like to study and enjoy the lectures are welcomed. In fact all are invited, without money and without price. Mr. Canipe says that the fellowship, Bible study and prayer should be a blessing to all.

Last year there was an average attendance of about 75 people and it is believed there will be a hundred this year.

## G. O. P. CONVENTION TO BE HELD IN CHARLOTTE

Charlotte, Jan. 2.—North Carolina Republicans will hold their 1940 state convention in Charlotte between the first and middle of March, State Chairman Jake F. Newell announced yesterday.

The time and place of the convention is left to the discretion of the state chairman. However, Mr. Newell preferred to call it upon the advice of members of the state executive committee, so he wrote asking them to state their preference of convention city. Practically all of those replying to the letter gave Charlotte as their preference, and last night Mr. Newell said that "in accordance with the expressed will of a majority of the members of the state executive committee, the convention will be held in Charlotte between the first and middle of March."

Mr. Newell, who has said that he will not permit his name to be placed in nomination for governor, is expected to be re-elected state chairman, probably without opposition.

## Scuttled Liner



Washington, D. C.—Captain W. Daehne, commander of the German luxury liner Columbus, which was sunk in the Atlantic—scuttled by her own crew to avoid capture by a British warship which trailed her as she made a desperate dash for Europe from Vera Cruz, Mexico.

## FEWER WEDDINGS DURING OLD YEAR

Marriages in 1939 Less Than Half Those of 1938; Only Four in December

In the year 1938, Miss Helen Underdown issued 131 marriage licenses as compared with 64 in 1939, it was revealed on Monday, the decline in the business of the marriage bureau being blamed on new legislation in the state requiring strict physical examination of those considering matrimony. Being located near the Tennessee line, Wataugans are prone to go into that state for wedding ceremonies and save the inconvenience and expense of complying with the North Carolina statute.

The records of Miss Underdown further show that in December 1939, only four licenses were issued as against 22 in December, 1938.

Following is a list of those securing licenses here during the year:

Jan. 9—Wayne Sturgill and Fletia Eastridge.  
Jan. 11—Clark Isaacs and Louise Matheson.  
Jan. 14—Reid M. Greene and Nellie Mae Greene; Thos. D. Heffner and Berse Elizabeth Lewis; Albert G. Hart and Alma Wallace.  
Jan. 17.—John Pressnell and Gladys Yates.  
Jan. 21—Mack Greer and Emma Phillips.  
Jan. 26—Clayton Main and Ruth Johnson.  
Jan. 28—Ray Hayes and Clara Hodges.  
Feb. 11—Claude Norman and Jettie Crawford.  
Feb. 12—Robert G. Watson and Essie Fox.  
Feb. 13—Walter Wellborn and Eva Mae Church.  
Feb. 14—Giles Mitchell and Nora Harmon.  
Feb. 18—Stanford S. Nance and Georgia Mae Kirby.  
Feb. 24—Dallas Richardson and Mae Taylor.  
Feb. 25—Grant Phillips and Ruby Houck.  
Feb. 27—Johnnie Hodges and Eva Carlton.  
March 7—Everett Waters and Virginia Carlton.  
March 10—Duard H. Norris and Iva Lee Bryan.  
March 16—Robert Phillips and Etta Mills.  
March 23—Clarence R. Lamkin and Wanda Lee Gragg.  
March 25—Fred Shelton and Gladys Munday.  
April 1—James C. Baldwin and Lillian Clark.  
April 4—Shufford C. Edmisten and Della Dare Watts.  
April 15—Horace J. Walls and Hazel Mary Hollars.  
May 8—Ed Wellborn and Nell Church.  
May 11—Mannie Rominger and Allie Huffman.  
May 19—Ralph E. Harr and Ora Leona Townsend.  
May 31—John F. Jones and Marie Smith Griffin; Paul Jones DuPre and Martha Louise Critcher.  
June 1—Glenn W. Winkler and Beatrice Culler.  
June 3—Marshall Kirby and Maudell Ward; Bill Kirby and Bonnie Ward.  
June 6—J. M. Laxton and Mary Pinkney Estes.  
June 15—Pierce O. Brewer and Mary Frances Linney.  
June 17—Stewart W. Rabb, Jr., and Miriam H. Glover.  
June 20—Geo. P. Edmisten and Loy Greene.  
July 10—John W. Warden and Ruby F. Farthing.  
July 19—Dale Clyde Norris and Anna Belle Coffey.  
July 25—Thos. E. Townsend and Lillie C. Townsend.  
July 28—Thos. B. Mast and Ruth Norris.  
July 29—James E. Henson and Genevieve Sherwood.  
Aug. 2—Paul A. Tugman and Rosalene McGuire; Morgan E. Maiden and Patricia Ellison.  
Aug. 4—Jas. C. Folger and Mar-

## Rites Held For James A. Aldridge

Funeral services were conducted from the Christian church at Foscoe Sunday afternoon for James A. Aldridge, aged 88, who died at his home here Saturday, following an illness which began on Christmas day. The rites were conducted by Rev. E. B. McClure of Roan Mountain, Tenn., and Rev. S. E. Gragg of the home neighborhood, assisting him. Interment was in the Foscoe cemetery.

Mr. Aldridge was born in the Foscoe neighborhood, a son of the late Harrison Aldridge, who was a famous hunter in the old days. He was married to Sallie Virginia Gragg on June 6, 1878, and to this union 13 children were born. There were nine sons, Bergin, Wade, Marvin and Fred having preceded their father in death. The following sons survive: John of Boone; Linville, Foscoe; Kay, Kingsport, Tenn.; Harry, Richmond, Calif.; Blaine, Tacoma, Wash. There are four daughters; Mrs. Cling Calloway, Shulls Mills; Mrs. Jud Wagner, Princeton, W. Va.; Mrs. D. P. Wyke and Mrs. J. R. Gragg of Boone. There are 31 grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Mr. Aldridge united with the Watauga Baptist church in October, 1905, and became a charter member of the Church of Christ at Foscoe in 1922. He resided throughout his long life at Foscoe where he engaged in farming and was well known and held in high regard by the people of this region.

## Father Mrs. Luther Succumbs Friday

J. T. Davis, aged 61, father of Mrs. Joe Luther of Boone, died at the home in Gaffney, S. C., Friday, and funeral services were conducted Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock. Mr. and Mrs. Luther, Gurney and Raymond Luther of Boone attended the rites.

Besides Mrs. Luther, three sons and four daughters survive.

## AUTO LICENSE SALE SETS NEW RECORD

Raleigh, Jan. 1.—North Carolina sold 39,259 more automobile tags in 1939 than it ever had sold in any year before, the state motor vehicle bureau reported today.

The 1939 sales totaled 632,294, compared with 593,035 for 1938, which was the record up to that time.

Sales of 1940 tags, use of which now is required, were 236,351 through December 30, compared with 253,210 for the same period in 1938. Employees of the motor vehicle bureau worked here today selling tags, and all branch offices in the state were open.

## CITY WATER FAILS AS MERCURY DROPS TO SEASON'S LOW

Tuesday Finds Town Without Water, Even For Home Consumption; Appalachian College Comes to Rescue and Water Made Available to Most Residents in Afternoon

The city water system, drained by thoughtless householders who left spigots running throughout Monday night to prevent frozen pipes, definitely went out of business in the early morning hours Tuesday and the town was definitely and literally dry, except for small amounts of the life-giving fluid carried in buckets from springs or wells of the more fortunate residents.

When the drain on the water system had exhausted the supply at the reservoir, the supply was so weakened from the protracted drought at the intake, that the system froze in places, and but for the co-operation of Appalachian College in pumping hundreds of thousands of gallons into the mains, the town would likely still be without water. By mid-afternoon, residents in the principal section of the town had water, but on some of the higher eminences in residential sections, water buckets were still bringing in enough of the fluid for cooking purposes.

Wednesday morning water is still running along the main street but the supply is diminishing, and the town board is doing everything possible to persuade the people to conserve the water supply so that no further calamity would occur. An ordinance was passed setting a \$10 fine as the penalty for leaving spigots running during the night. Employees of the town have worked heroically in an effort to get the frozen pipes thawed, but it is not believed that the system will be in complete operation until a general thaw occurs.

The near-zero temperatures came following several days of intermittent snowstorms. Tuesday morning mercury registered at two degrees above, and Wednesday at 5:30 the reading was three degrees above. At 7:30 it was four above.

As this is written the sun is shining and the wind has abated, but temperatures remain low.

## FIRST SWISS WOMEN TO ENROLL



Basle, Switzerland.—Some of the 350 women from all parts of Switzerland who were the first to enroll in the Swiss army auxiliary shown during drill in Basle recently. They are carrying folded stretchers and wearing ski costumes under regular army overcoats and steel helmets. They will drive ambulances.

## DEMOCRAT ABRIDGED

As usual once during the holiday period The Democrat today goes to its readers in a four-page edition. This usually occurs Christmas week, and might not have been the case at all this season, but for the rigorous weather the first of the week, which carried disaster to both sources of advertising and news matter. However, the county paper will be back to its usual number of pages and to its customary standard of coverage by the next edition.

## TAX LISTING IS NOW UNDER WAY

All Property Owners in County Must List, Even if Only Poll Taxes Are to Be Paid

The annual tax listing began in the county this week and will continue through January, according to C. D. McNeil, tax supervisor, who explained that the last legislature changed the listing period from April to January.

All property owners in the county must list for taxes, even if only poll taxes are paid.

Residents of Boone township will list at the courthouse, while residents of the other townships will list with the township listers who have already been appointed. Posters showing where the listers can be reached in the various townships have been posted throughout the county.

## Preachers and Deacons To Meet Here Monday

The preachers' and deacons' conference of the Three Forks and Stony Fork associations will meet in the Boone Baptist church on Monday, January 8th at 2 o'clock. The program, which has as its subject, "Preachers and Deacons' Department," is as follows:

1. "The Manner of Their Power," Mark 4:41—led by G. M. Watson.
2. "The Manner of Their Living," 2 Peter 3:11—led by Grady Minton.
3. "The Manner of Their Conversation," 1 Peter 1:15—led by J. C. Canipe.
4. "The Manner of Our Daily Walk," Rev. 20:23—led by W. J. Cook.

Rev. R. C. Eggers, chairman of the program committee, urges all ministers and deacons to attend.

## R. L. Wooten Dies in Wilkes County

R. L. Wooten, former resident of Watauga county and a brother of D. W. Wooten of Blowing Rock, died Monday at the home in the Hendrix neighborhood of Wilkes county. He suffered a heart attack.

Mr. Wooten, who was well known and popular in Watauga county, had recently been senior interviewer at the Lenoir branch of the state employment service, and has held several positions of public trust during the past few years.

Mr. Wooten was the first manager of the employment service office in North Wilkesboro and at one time was acting manager of the Lenoir branch.

## HUNT BUYS INTEREST IN BARE'S FAIR STORE

Mr. Guy Hunt, manager of Bare's Fair store of this city, has purchased a one-half interest in the business from Mr. G. T. Bare of Wilkes county, it was announced Tuesday. At the same time it was said there will be no change in the management of the local store, which since its founding has been a most popular establishment with the people of this section.

## FIRST NEW YEAR BABY IS REPORTED

Iva Dean Trivett, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Trivett of Beaver Dam township, who was born Monday afternoon, is the first New Year's baby to be reported to The Democrat. Mr. Trivett was in town Wednesday and called by The Democrat office on his way to the bank, where he claimed the five dollars offered by the Standard Oil Company for all babies born on January 1 in their territory.

## ACCOUNTS OF TAX COLLECTOR SHORT, AUDITORS REVEAL

Len Wilson Has Been Absent From Office Since Before Christmas; Auditing Firm in Special Check-up of Accounts Find Shortage of \$2,557

Charles E. Hagan, Hickory accountant, revealed Tuesday that a special audit conducted by his firm uncovered a shortage of \$2,557.00 in the Books of Len Wilson, Watauga county tax collector and well-known Boone athlete, who has been missing since December 19.

The audit indicates that the shortage began on November 3 and the books continued to show a shortage up to December 19th, when the official was last at his post of duty. His accounts had been audited to the former date, and nothing other than minor clerical errors were found.

Mr. Wilson, who is 24 years old, was named tax collector in August, 1938, upon the death of his father, A. D. Wilson, who had served in that capacity for a number of years. The commissioners stated that the official was fully and amply bonded and that no loss to the county would result.

No one in Boone has knowledge of Mr. Wilson's whereabouts, it is said, but a warrant has been issued and the state department of justice has been apprised of his disappearance.

## EVERY GREENE NOW COLLECTING TAXES

Avery W. Greene, deputy tax collector, is now in charge of the office made vacant by the disappearance of Len Wilson, and states that the books are now open following the special audit. Mrs. A. D. Wilson, step-mother of the former official, was jointly named as executor as tax collector and is bonded. She has secured the services of her brother to assist her, with the agreement of the county commissioners.

Mr. Greene states that all those paying their taxes this month will save the penalty which must be added February 1.

## W. W. MAST STORE NOW UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT

Announcement was made Monday of the transfer of the W. W. Mast store at Valle Crucis to Richard A. Olson, who for the past five years has been actively in charge of the well-known merchandising establishment. Inventories, said to be the first made during the forty-three years of the store's operation, will be completed this week, and the signboard has been changed to "Watauga County Store."

Mr. Mast began his career as a country merchant in 1894, as a clerk in the store of his uncle, the late N. L. Mast, on Cove Creek. For the first year his wages were at the rate of \$5 per month, and during the succeeding two years he received a monthly stipend of \$7.50. With the savings of his apprenticeship he went to Valle Crucis in 1897 and became a partner of the late C. D. Taylor in the firm of Taylor and Mast. He purchased the Taylor interest in 1901, and through the years which followed built one of Watauga's most lucrative businesses.

Mr. Mast was in business during the summer season of 1901, and through his connection with tourist houses was able to establish a cash market for the produce he received in barter. This market, according to the pioneer merchant, enabled him to survive during several "hard years."

Considered a genius in business, the Valle Crucis merchant has been connected with banking enterprises, stock raising and other mercantile businesses during the past forty years. Eleven members of the Mast family, among whom three brothers of Mr. Mast, have also owned and operated stores in Watauga since the turn of the century, among whom are T. L. Mast of Lovell, a former partner, Clyde Mast of Sugar Grove, and the late Milton Mast, also of the Cove Creek section.

Mr. Mast founded the old Watauga Supply Company in Boone following the construction of the narrow gauge railroad in 1918, and for several years did a flourishing business here. He also was a partner in the Shulls Mills Feed and Grain Company with the late Alex Woodie and W. E. Shipley. This firm, during the years that Whiting Lumber Company operated in the neighborhood, was considered one of the county's most successful enterprises.

W. F. Sherwood of Sherwood, and W. L. Holshouser of Blowing Rock, are the only two Watauga business men actively engaged in merchandising who established themselves prior to Mr. Mast.

Mr. Olson took complete charge of the Valle Crucis store on New Year's day. Following completion of the inventory he intends to conduct a clearance sale which will be announced in next week's Democrat. Mr. Mast will continue to personally conduct his vast agricultural and stock-growing enterprises, and will have headquarters at the Watauga Country Store.