

BOONE
is the Christmas shopping center of Northwest Carolina

WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

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HEARING IS HELD ON SCRAPPING OF LOCAL RAILROAD

Narrow Gauge Officials Aver Heavy Losses in Evidence Submitted to Interstate Commerce Commission Examiner; Boone People Offer Evidence

Examiner Schutrumpf, of the interstate commerce commission, conducted a hearing in Johnson City Friday on the petition of the Linville River Railway to abandon its line between Cranberry and Boone, which had been put out of commission in the August 13 flood, and W. R. Lovill, Clyde R. Greene, Dr. B. B. Dougherty, Albert Watson, James H. Council and State Highway Commissioner Gordon Hackett appeared for the people of Boone in their contention that the petition of the narrow-gauge carrier should be denied.

Attorney Turney of Washington, D. C., handled the evidence for the railway, and presented evidence by Superintendent Blackwell, Mr. Fisher, executive vice-president; Mr. Whisman, the traffic manager, and Mr. Morgan, engineer with the C. C. & O. Railway, the latter testifying that a survey of the storm-twisted tracks indicated that \$150,000 would be required to re-establish rail service into Boone. The local delegation presented Mr. Allison, former superintendent of the road, and veteran railroader, who stated that the road could be re-established the way it was originally built for \$13,500.

A detailed audit of the operating revenue of the line was submitted by railway officials, which indicated that save for two years, the Linville River Railway had lost money every year of its existence; that the losses were increasing year by year, and that the stockholders were unwilling to invest further funds in a losing venture. It was stated that the original investment in the Linville River line and interest on same at 4 per cent, was \$800,000, and that allowing \$53,000 for the salvage of the line, there would still result a loss to the company of \$747,000.

In the course of the hearing it developed that the Cranberry Corporation, a holding company, held the stock of the Linville River Railway, the ET & WNC Railway and the ET & WNC Motor Transportation Company, and objectors to the discontinuance of the railway emphasized the taking of less than carload

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Mrs. R. H. Greene Dies in California

Mrs. E. J. Farthing has received news of the death of her sister-in-law, Mrs. R. H. Greene, which occurred at San Diego, Calif., on November 26.

Mr. and Mrs. Greene, whose home is at Humiston, Iowa, had gone to California for the winter, hoping Mrs. Greene's health would improve. They were there about a month when she suffered a second stroke of paralysis. She died eleven days later.

Mr. Greene has many friends and relatives in Watauga county, as he was reared here. He has made his home in Iowa, however, for a number of years.

Passion Week Movie Will Be Shown Here

There will be a talking motion picture of the Passion Week of Christ shown in the demonstration school auditorium at 3 p. m. and in the high school auditorium at 7:30 p. m. on Monday December 9. "Golgotha" is sponsored by the P. T. A. Special free tickets will be given out by the merchants.

McNUTT HEADS NEW DEFENSE FUNCTIONS

Washington, Dec. 4.—President Roosevelt last night placed Federal Security Administrator Paul V. McNutt in charge of the health, medical welfare, nutrition and recreational aspects of the nation's defense activities.

The White House announced Mr. Roosevelt's approval of a national defense council order transferring these functions from the national defense advisory commission, where they were under the jurisdiction of Defense Commissioner Harriet Elliott.

Speaks Here Friday



MRS. L. H. MARTIN

WAS IN PARIS WHEN CITY FELL

Mrs. Martin to Describe Occupation of French Capital; Is Noted Lecturer

Mrs. L. H. Martin, who has spent the past five weeks in Lenoir, visiting with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Shell, will deliver a lecture at the Baptist church in Boone Friday evening at 7:30, from the subject, "Conditions in Paris Before and After the Fall of the City." The general public is invited to attend.

The lecture has been arranged by Mrs. John Conway, president of the Woman's Worth While Club, who is a friend of Mrs. Martin.

Mrs. Martin and her husband were in Paris in the days preceding the occupation of the city by the invading German forces, was present for a month after its fall, and brings a most informative and entertaining lecture to the people of the city. She has been living in Europe for the past seven years and is a recognized authority on the conditions prevailing prior to and since the spread of totalitarian government over the continent.

Mrs. Martin has been so well received by the public since her visit in Lenoir that it has been necessary for her to lecture twice daily to meet public demands. The Woman's Club feels most fortunate in having secured her services.

BROKEN TOYS ARE FIXED FOR NEEDY

Matinee at Appalachian Theatre Nets Truck Load of Toys for Christmas Party

The broken-toy matinee conducted on Thursday morning at the Appalachian theatre, at which time the kiddies of the community and county were asked to bring a broken or discarded toy instead of ticket money, produced a small truck load of toys, which Manager Trotter will have repaired and refinished for needy children at Christmas time. The gifts will be distributed at a special Christmas party at Appalachian which will be announced later.

The matinee also brought in \$5.46 in cash which will be used partly to buy paint and other materials with which to revamp the toys. Mr. W. H. Gragg contributed a large number of unfinished novelties, which swelled the total of toy receipts.

Anyone yet desiring to supply toys for this purpose should leave them at the theatre or at The Democrat office.

Sports Club Draws Number New Members

The Appalachian Sports Club, which was started at Homecoming Day exercises at the college in October, now has 20 members, according to Mr. Paul Winkler of Morganton, president of the organization.

The club is for the purpose of assisting needy athletes in pursuing their courses at the local college, and dues are \$1.00 or more per year. Julian Yoder is secretary of the club and G. P. Hagaman, treasurer. All former students of Appalachian College or of Appalachian Training School are eligible for membership.

NEWLY ELECTED COUNTY OFFICERS SWORN IN MONDAY

Grady Greer Named Chairman of the Board of Commissioners; New Group Lauds Record of Retiring Board; Clerk of Court Administers Oath to New Officers

The government of Watauga county passed into the hands of those elected on November 5, Monday, when Clerk of the Court Austin E. South administered the oath of office to the three members of the board of commissioners, to the register of deeds and to the county surveyor.

Grady Greer, Bert Mast and Ira Edmisten are the new county commissioners, the last named being the only incumbent to take the oath of office. Messrs. Greer and Mast succeed Eller McNeil and Coy Billings, who have served the county capably and efficiently for ten and eight years, respectively.

Miss Helen Underdown, register of deeds, who led the Democratic ticket in the election, was sworn in again, after 12 years incumbency, and Charles Thompson resumed his tenure as county surveyor.

Gordon H. Winkler, elected to the house of representatives, will be sworn in in Raleigh when the legislature convenes in January.

To Publish Audit
One of the last acts of the retiring board of commissioners was to order the publication of a concise audit of the condition of the affairs of the county in the local newspaper in its issue of December 12.

Greer Named Chairman
Grady Greer was elected chairman of the board of county commissioners, and no business other than that of a routine kind came up for consideration by the new board. The following resolution, signed by the new board members, was passed in appreciation of the splendid services rendered the county by Mr. (Continued on page four)

Naval Recruiter Leaves Wednesday

Chief Signalman Reinhardt, U. S. navy, leaves this afternoon after a three-day stay at the local postoffice, where he conducted a temporary naval recruiting station. No men from the county were enlisted but a number came for information. Any of those who desire to enlist later or others may do so at the Lenoir postoffice where Mr. Reinhardt will be stationed until Saturday noon.

Attention is called to the fact that recruits need not now wait for a long period of time for a call after having signed up. They are accepted and assigned to duty just as soon as the papers are completed, it is explained.

BANKS WILL BE SECRETARY TO GOVERNOR BROUGHTON

Governor-elect J. M. Broughton announced Monday night that Thos. A. Banks, young Raleigh lawyer, would be his private secretary. Banks will formally assume his duties January 9, when Broughton is inaugurated, but in the meantime he will aid the governor-elect in making preparations for the change of state administrations.

GRID BANQUET MONDAY NIGHT

Russ Hodges and Other Sports Authorities to Be Present at Annual Event

The annual Appalachian football banquet will be held at the college cafeteria next Monday evening beginning at 8 o'clock, at which time Coach R. W. Watkins will award letters to the varsity men and a football captain for next year will be elected.

Russ Hodges, sports commentator from WBT, Charlotte, will deliver the principal address, and there will be other well-known guests, including representatives from various state newspapers.

A special musical presentation will enliven the program, Johnny Thompson and his orchestra will be present, together with George Farling's famed string band. There will be a dance feature by little Miss Geck of Blowing Rock.

Tobacco Brings Average 20 Cents As Burley Market Opens Sales; 250,000 Pounds Auctioned Today

SANTA CLAUS TO SPREAD CHEER AS CITY IS LIGHTED

Annual Christmas Opening Spectacle Draws Large Crowds to City; Parade to Usher in Season; Gift Merchandise Now On Display

The Christmas shopping season officially gets under way this (Wednesday) afternoon when Santa Claus will appear with his bag of gifts, and when the holiday lights will be turned on throughout the shopping district.

The Boone Merchants Association, with the co-operation of the city officials and the New River Light and Power Company, started work Monday morning stringing the big ropes of evergreens on each side of King street through the principal part of the town, and placing the hundreds of vari-colored lights in the decorative greens. Tuesday evening the work had been almost completed, and the work is expected to be completed well in advance of the opening.

The Christmas opening will take place, that is, the lights turned on at dusk this evening, and Santa Claus will head a parade through town in which the Appalachian band is expected to participate. Gifts will be distributed by Santa to the hundreds of children who usually gather on these occasions and there will be a good time for all the youngsters.

The stores of the city are remaining open on Wednesday evening, and a little later night hours will be observed every day.

H. P. DOUGHERTY DIES WEDNESDAY

One of Town's Most Aged Citizens Succumbs to Short Illness; Funeral Plans Incomplete

Hiram P. Dougherty, aged 82 years, one of the oldest citizens of the city, died at the home Wednesday morning after a few days' illness with a heart ailment.

Funeral details had not yet been arranged at press time, but the services will be held at the Boone Baptist church, it was said.

Survivors include the widow, the former Miss Nancy Hayes of Johnson county, Tenn., two sons and one daughter: Arthur and Charlie Dougherty, Miss Fannie Dougherty, et al of Boone. Two sisters also survive, Mrs. Mary Saults of Bristol, and Mrs. Sarah Perry of Beaver Dam township.

Mr. Dougherty was a son of Col. Anthony Dougherty and Mrs. Deborah Dougherty and had spent the most of his life in Beaver Dam township. He had lived in Boone for the past 13 years. He had been a member of the Baptist church for 68 years, and lived the life of a good Christian citizen.

Details concerning the funeral will appear in the next edition of the paper.

A TUBERCULOSIS SEAL should be placed on every card and letter mailed between now and Christmas. Protect the health of our people while extending Christmas greetings.

More than 150,000,000 gallons of crude oil are moved daily to U. S. refineries.

3 WEEKS UNTIL CHRISTMAS!

GIFT SUGGESTIONS IN THIS ISSUE!

Merchants To Give Prizes To Tobacco Growers Every Day

The Boone Merchants Association has announced that beginning today with the opening of sales on the local tobacco market, two valuable prizes will be given to some farmer, who disposes of his weed on the local warehouse floors.

The first prize will be a hat, given to the farmer who has the basket of tobacco which brings the highest price per pound, and the second prize, a rug, goes to the farmer offering the largest basket of tobacco. These prizes will be given each sale day during the week, and may be continued through the season, it is said.

TWO WATAUGANS IN FIRST DRAFT

First Men to Enter Military Service to Report December 11; Go to Fort Bragg

Two Wataugans have been selected for induction into the army by the local selective service board and will be required to report to the board at 7:30 a. m. on December 11.

William Shelton Penn of Zionville, and Claud Woodrow Bentley of Valle Crucis, have been notified to appear at this time and they will be sent to Fort Bragg for a year's military training as provided under the selective service act.

At the same time the local draft board announces that questionnaires have been mailed out to all those holding numbers from 196 to 245. V. C. Howell calls attention of the registrants to the statement on page one of the questionnaire. Willful failure, he says, on the part of the registrant to truthfully fill out and return the blanks on or before the date shown on the front page is punishable by both fine and imprisonment.

Womanless Wedding Is Arranged By Lions Club

A rehearsal following the regular meeting of the Boone Lions Club Tuesday night, marked preparations for a negro womanless wedding to be given in the Appalachian theatre December 16.

Proceeds from the matinee and night performances will go to the benefit of a local blind clinic for the needy in Watauga county, and all members of the civic club have pledged their support to the occasion.

Dr. W. Amos Abrams, president of the local Lions club, together with Mrs. Cullen Johnson, have appointed a cast for the humorous production, taking in such characters as J. O. Cook, Richard Kelley, Gene Wike, Edwin Dougherty, Jim Council, Dr. Robert King, Dr. O. W. Southard, Dr. Abrams, Dr. D. J. Whitener, Dr. J. H. Wolfe, Wade E. Brown and E. Ford King, along with a number of other members selected to serve in the bridal party.

At the regular meeting Tuesday night, various members of the organization pledged support to the blind stand in the post-office by buying Christmas cards and magazines from Miss Hodges' abundant supply. The stand, established by the local unit, has been operated during the past year, but had not proved financially satisfactory until recent legislation in the organization brought the stand to life with a new supply of merchandise, and reorganization.

MANY LICENSES SOLD

Forty-three automobile licenses were disposed of Saturday at the newly-opened bureau at Cook-Nichols Motor Co., and on Monday 17 were sold. Motorists in this region are most appreciative of facilities having been provided for securing their tags in this city.

LARGE CROWDS ATTEND AUCTION

Larger Baskets and Higher Grade Leaf Generally Reported on Local Floor; Higher Average Given Than Last Year; Sales Every Day Till Saturday

The Mountain Burley Tobacco Warehouses opened their first sales of the second season of the venture here today (Wednesday) and figures given the press shortly before noon indicated that the leaf up to that time had brought an average of 20 cents per pound, or 1.8 cents more than the average quoted on the opening sale a year ago. The highest basket of tobacco sold for 32 cents, and there was very little of the lowest grade weed on the floor at the opening.

By the time the sales close this afternoon, estimates of Jones Brothers and Coleman, operators of the burley houses, indicate that about 250,000 pounds will have been sold.

Large numbers of tobacco farmers and townspeople mingled with the crowds on the warehouse floors during the process of the initial sales and a large string of trucks stood in the driveways unloading tobacco, as sales were completed and the weed moved to the prize rooms on the lower level of warehouse No. 1, and trucks continued at noon to arrive from different sections of the burley belt. With the two large houses, farmers are able to unload their tobacco promptly, and there will be scarcely no delay in getting the weed sold. Sales start daily at 9 a. m. except Saturday.

Farmers expressed themselves as being pleased at the amounts of their checks and the courteous treatment they received from the warehousemen.

EMPTY STOCKING FUND IS STARTED

Seventy-five Dollars Realized From Tobacco Ball for Aid to Indigent Children

The empty stocking fund of the Tuesday Night Club was enhanced by seventy-five dollars as a result of the second annual tobacco ball, held last Saturday evening, and the money will be used to provide confections, fruits and toys for destitute children of the community on Christmas morning.

A large number of people gathered on this section and the surrounding territory for the ball, which was described as one of the nicest affairs of the kind ever held here. Stubby Taylor's well-known orchestra provided the music.

Any person desiring to help further with the empty stocking fund should give their donation to any member of the Tuesday club or leave it at The Democrat office.

Western Union Has Lengthened Hours

Mr. H. W. Wilcox announces that a simplex printer is now in operation at the Western Union office and that with the new method of handling messages, longer hours have been established, from 8 a. m. to 8 p. m. If business should justify it, even longer hours can be arranged, it is said.

Mr. Wilcox states that when special occasion demands, a direct hook-up to distant points can be arranged, and when there is special press movement, the office can, on short notice, arrange to handle this business at such hours as are necessary to transmit same.

The Western Union management hopes that the co-operation of the people will be such that the improved service may be continued.