

DEMOCRATS HOLD CONVENTION HERE; RIVERS CHAIRMAN

Resolutions Adopted as Democrats Hold Biennial Meeting; State Convention to Be Held in Raleigh Friday

The Democrats of Watauga county met in convention in the courthouse last Saturday afternoon, with Wade E. Brown acting in the capacity of chairman, and M. W. Beach as secretary.

Following the convention, the newly-named members of the executive committee elected Rob Rivers chairman, and Mrs. Mae Miller, vice-chairman. It was agreed that all attendants at the Democratic state convention in Raleigh next Friday would be recognized as delegates.

The convention adopted the following resolutions, pledging support to the all-out war effort, and honoring the memory of John H. Bingham, whose death occurred last week:

Endorses War Effort

That whereas, it is common knowledge that our great nation as well as practically every nation of the world is going through a period of great struggle and strain through the ravages of modern warfare with all its deadly implications,

And whereas, it becomes imperative that every person in our country realize that it is only through the united effort of all that the struggle will be won and our people will again enjoy the freedom for which our forefathers died,

And whereas, during this period of national and international crises the responsibility of carrying on the governmental functions of our national, state and county governmental agencies have been placed on the shoulders of our great leaders under the banner of the Democratic party;

Now therefore, be it resolved, that the Watauga county Democratic convention assembled at Boone on this 16th day of May, 1942 in regular session, hereby endorse and pledge our complete co-operation and offers to our great President, Franklin D. Roosevelt, to our governor, J. M. Broughton, and to all other leaders of our federal, state and

(Continued on page eight)

Nelson Asks Local Farmers To Aid In Scrap Collection

Donald M. Nelson, chairman of the war production board, has written a letter to all farmers in Watauga county urging them to co-operate fully with the WPA project designed to move scrap metal and rubber from farms into war industries. "Badly needed scrap still remains on many farms. It is valueless to the war effort there. Final victory depends upon how fast we can give our fighting men the weapons and machines to do the job. We need every pound of scrap from every farm and we need it now," wrote Mr. Nelson.

Harry Hamilton, chairman of the county salvage committee, has requested James B. Vogler, executive secretary of the state Salvage for Victory committee, to have WPA set up a unit of its state-wide project to locate, collect and haul scrap metal and rubber for the war production board.

The mailing of the letters marked the beginning of a state-wide drive by WPA workers to glean the thousands of tons of rural scrap metal and rubber now vital in war production.

Each letter contains a post card addressed to the Works Project administration. Chairman Hamilton urges all farmers to immediately fill in their cards and mail them.

Under the plan a farmer can either donate or sell his scrap to the government. If sold, the government will pay 30 cents per hundred for scrap iron and steel and one-half cent per pound for scrap rubber. The government will then sell the scrap on bid to dealers who must prepare it and ship it to war factories and mills within 60 days. Dealer prices will be in line with the government's scrap price ceilings. If the scrap is donated, the money from its sale goes to the United States government to aid in the war.

"WPA co-operation solves a major problem in our salvage program," said Mr. Vogler. "Transportation of scrap from farms to collection centers has been a real problem. With gasoline rationing the problem has become acute. WPA will not only collect and haul the scrap, but they will provide wrecking crews to dismantle material when it is necessary to do so in order that it might be hauled."

Quezon Visits U. S.



President Manuel Quezon of the Philippine Commonwealth is shown above, after his arrival in San Francisco from Australia. He was accompanied by members of his family and his executive staff.

TO OBSERVE POPPY DAY SATURDAY

Mrs. J. E. Joines of Legion Auxiliary, Announces Plans for Annual Sale of Flowers

Dimes, quarters and dollars dropped into the coin boxes of the "Poppy Girls" this year will aid the victims of the present war, as well as those of the first World War, according to Mrs. J. E. Joines, Poppy Day chairman of Watauga Post 130, unit of the American Legion Auxiliary.

The Auxiliary is rapidly completing arrangements for the annual observance of Poppy Day on May 23, when memorial poppies will be distributed throughout the city by Auxiliary members. A large corps of volunteers is being formed by Mrs. Joines to work the entire day bringing the flowers of patriotic remembrance to everyone in the city.

"This year," said Mrs. Joines, the poppy not only honors and aids the men who defended America 24 years ago and their families, but also those defending America today and their families. Funds collected on Poppy Day will be used in the work the Legion and Auxiliary are doing for the disabled of both wars, and for needy families of men in the service as well as those of veterans.

"The Legion and Auxiliary have had 20 years of experience in aiding service men and their dependents. They are able to make every dollar do maximum service in this field. Their volunteer workers have had long training and know the quickest and best methods of bringing relief to veterans and their families found in need.

WARNS AGAINST USING GAS FOR JOY-RIDING

Atlanta, Ga., May 18—Oscar R. Straus, Jr., regional OPA administrator, warned today that steps would be taken to curb "flagrant misuse of gasoline," notably "joy-riding," unless it is stopped voluntarily and immediately.

Straus said an OPA official returning to the city at midnight Saturday, shortly after gas rationing became effective, reported, "... cars about town, driven around, with young people in them, seemingly without any knowledge that times had changed."

"The week-end driving told the same story," Straus continued. "Frankly this must stop. If necessary officers will check the numbers of automobiles obviously being misused without regard to the rationing program. They will look at the cards, to see what type of ration cards are possessed, and inquire into the circumstances surrounding the cards."

MRS. LAURA B. CROUCH

Belated information reaching The Democrat tells of the death on Easter Sunday of Mrs. Laura B. Crouch in Savannah, Ga. The rites were conducted in that city and interment was there. Mrs. Crouch had been a summer resident of Blowing Rock for more than 30 years, and was associated with the late Mr. W. O. Spencer in the conduct of the Green Park hotel. More recently she managed Maplewood Inn.

PRICES GO BACK TO MARCH PEAK

Two Million Retailers Get Detailed Explanations in OPA Book

The clock of rising prices was moved back to March Monday, and halted.

From now on, no retail merchant may charge more for consumer products than the highest price he charged in March. While the price control order was not expected to result in any startling reductions, economists figured that the average drop in the cost of living would be about 1½ per cent.

As a guide to the nearly two million American retailers affected, the office of price administration in Washington has begun distributing a "shopkeepers' bible" entitled "What Every Retailer Should Know About the General Maximum Price Regulation." In telling the retailer what to do, the OPA bulletin likewise lets the consumer know what to expect on the counters of the corner grocery or the big department store.

Five tests are prescribed by OPA by which the retailer may determine his maximum selling price under the universal ceiling.

The first basic rule requires the retailer to take as his ceiling the highest price at which he delivered a specified article in March. The key factor is the actual delivery during March, rather than the making of a sale in that month. Delivery took place when the customer received the article or when it left the store on its way to the customer.

The second rule covers a retailer who offered an article for sale in March but made no deliveries. His ceiling will be the highest offering price—the price marked on the article itself or on the shelves or racks where it was displayed for sale.

Third, for an article neither delivered nor offered for sale in March, the ceiling is the highest price of the "similar article most nearly like it" delivered or offered for delivery during March.

Fourth, if none of the first three rules applies, the retailer must fix the price of his article "not higher than the highest March price of the most closely competitive retailer of the same class for the same article" or the article most nearly like it.

Fifth, if none of the four previous rules applies, the retailer must put his problems up to an OPA regional office after arriving at a possible price through use of a complicated OPA formula—which is carefully explained in the "bible."

Civilian Defense Council to Meet

Wade E. Brown, chairman of the civilian defense council for Watauga county, states that a meeting will be held in the courthouse Thursday evening, May 26, at 7:30 o'clock, at which time Dr. Robert R. King will explain the basic principles of poison gas and how people may be protected from its effects.

Mr. Brown especially requests messengers, auxiliary police, air raid wardens, auxiliary firemen, road workers, teachers, first aid workers, housewives and business men to attend this meeting, together with the general public.

Little Interest Is Showin In Primary

A minimum of interest is being manifested in the primary election which is to be held on Saturday, May 30, and reports indicate that few new voters have registered.

Richard T. Fountain of Rocky Mount, former lieutenant governor, is seeking to unseat Senator J. W. Bailey. Mr. Fountain opposed senator Bailey in the last primary.

BANK HOURS

Mr. W. D. Farthing, cashier of the Northwestern Bank, calls attention to the fact that the present banking hours are 10 a. m. to 3 p. m. Mr. Farthing further states that on numerous occasions patrons of the bank desire to transact business after business hours, and that while he is anxious to render the most complete banking service possible, that under the terms of the wage and hour law, employees must be paid at the rate of time and one-half for overtime consumed when patrons arrive after 3 o'clock, Mr. Farthing states that he is most anxious to render the best service, and solicits the co-operation of the people in this connection.

There is no defense or security for any of us except in the highest intelligence and development of all.—Booker T. Washington.

'Get In the Fight, They Can't Hurt Us!'



This photo which arrived in New York from London by clipper, shows Adolf Hitler as he tried to cheer up wounded Nazi soldiers. There can be no doubt that the Nazis needed some sort of encouragement to keep them fighting and to bolster their morale for the much talked of "spring offensive," after the many reverses they had experienced in Russia during the winter months. Evidently Der Fuehrer believed a visit from him would do the trick.

Tourist Resorts In Blowing Rock Area Will Open As Usual

Blowing Rock, May 19.—Recent publicity given the concerted efforts of the mountain resorts of this area to obtain better transportation facilities and special consideration in regard to gasoline rationing appears to have caused misapprehension on the part of some persons.

Reports and inquiries coming to the chambers of commerce in several of the resort towns imply that the impression has gone out that the resort business is very "downhearted" and just about ready to "close shop and call it a day" for the duration.

This is the antithesis of the truth. So far as is known, every hotel, guest house, restaurant and business place of importance plans to be open as usual this season. In fact, many improvements are being made and the service offered will be on a higher plane than before. Optimism in the face of undeniable obstacles prevails everywhere.

The resort business is not "downhearted." In Blowing Rock, for example, the two largest hotels, Mayview Manor and Green Park hotel, are spending thousands of dollars in improvements. Entirely new kitchen equipment is being installed in both places. New tennis courts and a putting green are being built at Mayview. Plans are already made to transport guests to the Norwood-Green Park golf course. The same high type of food service will be maintained as in the past. Reservations for season accommodations are coming in at a gratifying pace.

The smaller hotels, already open, are doing their usual business; in some cases better than at this time in former seasons. Cottagers are already established, many of them, in their homes here for the season. Others are coming in increasing numbers weekly. More than a dozen new homes have been built during the past winter and are ready for occupancy by their owners.

The filling stations are facing the issue squarely and staying open to serve their patrons with whatever amounts of gasoline their allotments call for. The specialty shops will be open as usual. The local moving picture theatre has placed orders for the latest and best pictures of current issue and will open June 1. Plans are being made for horse-shoe pitching courts and shuffle-board. The horse show will be held. The country club will be open.

The recent pleas for assistance in solving the transportation problems of these "off the railroad" areas were based largely on the situation of the smaller rooming houses and places of business that depend largely on the guests who stop for only short periods of time—overnight or for the week-end. They will stand to lose business, and they are the ones who need it most.

Those who plan to come to the larger places for their entire vacation or all the summer will find ways and means of getting here. In fact, arrangement is being made with local taxis to meet all incoming guests of the hotels at nearby railroad centers—Asheville, Hickory, Johnson City and Bristol. This will be done in cases where bus connections call for unusually long delays in travel.

The feeling is that the mountains have in this emergency something to offer that is essential in the all-out war effort. They have the atmosphere that refreshes and rebuilds,

that gives hard-driven workers a new lease on life, that builds morale and breeds optimism, that sends men and women back to their places of duty with new energy, new enthusiasm, new courage, new hope and new power to do their tasks well.

Sympathetic interest is being manifested by representatives and officials in both Washington and Raleigh in the efforts of this section for better transportation facilities.

Replying to the recent letter sent him at the instance of the Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce, the chairman of the ways and means committee of congress, Robert L. Doughton wrote:

"Your letter of May 7th commenting on the serious situation in Blowing Rock and our mountain section, so dependent upon the tourist business, as it will be affected by the tire and gas rationing, has been received and given attention. This is a matter which has been giving me considerable worry for some time, and one which I have discussed with the proper authorities on several occasions. Whether or not something can be worked out that will take care of the situation I am not sure; but I shall continue my efforts in trying to have the government work out some remedy. I will lay your letter before the proper authorities, and immediately accentuate to the limit of my ability the seriousness of the situation."

A more recent communication from U. S. Senator Josiah W. Bailey expresses his interest in the matter in these words:

"Thank you for your letter of May 7th with reference to the effect of the gasoline curtailment on tourist trade in your community. I am communicating at once with the office of Price Administrator Henderson in an effort to be of assistance to you in this matter. Certainly it is my hope that satisfactory adjustment can be made due to the fact that yours and other communities are dependent upon the tourist trade. You will be promptly notified when I have any information from the officials here."

MACHINE SHOP FACILITIES AVAILABLE TO FARMERS

The facilities of the shop of the vocational agriculture department at Appalachian high school, will be available to farmers of this area each Saturday throughout the summer, it has been announced. The decision to keep the shop open on Saturdays has been made in order to aid those who have machinery in need of repairs. Some members of the defense metal working class will be present to assist farmers in making the desired repairs, it is stated.

No charge will be made for these services. At the disposal of persons bringing machinery to be repaired are blacksmithing equipment, an electric welder, a machinist lathe, drill press, a spray paint outfit, power grinders and other common shop tools and equipment.

WYKE SELLS GROCERY STORE TO COOK AND CLAY

W. M. Cook and J. E. Clay, owners of the King Street Grocery, have purchased Wyke's grocery store and are combining it with their line. Mr. Wyke will continue to handle a complete line of feeds.

JOHN H. BINGHAM CLAIMED BY DEATH THURSDAY NIGHT

Former Superior Court Clerk, Judge of Recorders Court and Educational Leader Succumbs to Long Illness; Funeral Sunday Afternoon

John H. Bingham, member of one of the county's most prominent families, former judge of the recorder's court and clerk of the superior court of Watauga county, died last Thursday evening at the Banner Elk hospital, after a long period of failing health. Mr. Bingham had been admitted to the hospital a few days prior to his death.

Funeral services were conducted from the home Sunday afternoon by Rev. M. A. Osborne, Methodist minister, who was assisted in the rites by Rev. Dwight Edmisten and Rev. H. K. Middleton of the Baptist church. Mr. W. R. Lovill, life-long friend of the deceased, spoke briefly. Interment was in the Mast cemetery, Reins-Sturdivant Funeral Home being in charge of the arrangements.

John Houston Bingham was born in Watauga county, a son of the late William and Roxana Presnell Bingham. In young manhood Mr. Bingham taught in the public schools of the county and was principal of Walnut Grove Academy, which was the county's leading educational institution, prior to the establishment of the Appalachian Training School.

Mr. Bingham studied law at Wake Forest College and was admitted to the bar in 1912. He was clerk of the Watauga county superior court from 1898 to 1902 and was judge of the county recorder's court from 1934 until the abolishment of the tribunal in December, 1936. He was one of the county's most widely known men, was a citizen of great ability, and lived a life of service to his fellow man. He will be sorely missed by a wide circle of friends throughout this area.

Surviving are the following sons and daughters: Mrs. J. J. Mast, Mrs. A. C. Mast, Mrs. Hugh Reese, Misses Ophelia and Roxanna Bingham, Sugar Grove; Joe, Don, Finley and Bob White Bingham, Sugar Grove. One sister, Miss Jane Bingham, a resident of Sugar Grove, also survives, together with 14 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Stockholders' Meeting For Burley Market Is Held Last Thursday

The annual meeting of the stockholders of the Mountain Burley Warehouses was held last Thursday, and a favorable financial report was received. Mr. Roscoe Coleman, lessee of the warehouses, was present and urged the farmers of the county to plant their full quotas this year. Mr. Coleman stated that those who do not have a base this year should also plant tobacco, as he believes it will pay, notwithstanding the penalty of 10 cents per pound which is imposed.

All officers of the corporation were re-elected by the board of directors. Mr. H. G. Farthing is the president, and J. B. Mount, vice-president. Mr. Clyde R. Greene is secretary and treasurer.

The board of directors consists of the following: S. C. Eggers, chairman; J. B. Mount, Jack Shoun, R. L. Doughton, Roscoe Coleman, W. H. Gragg, T. L. Mast, G. K. Moose and Chapell Wilson.

A.S.T.C. Alumni Group Not To Meet During Summer

An announcement from Wheeler Farthing, president of the Appalachian Alumni Association for Watauga county, indicates that all summer meetings of that organization have been postponed.

The officials of the organization conferred recently on the proposed meeting at Bethel on May 28, and decided that attendance would be small because of individual vacation plans. The club will not meet until further notice.

HONOR ROLL

Additional men from Watauga county serving in the armed forces of the nation, and whose names were unintentionally omitted from the roster published some time ago are:

- Ronald C. Rominger
- Arnold Rominger
- Gordon Hicks
- Norman Tester
- Gilford Presnell
- Johnny M. Harmon.