



TAX LISTERS FOR WATAUGA COUNTY ARE APPOINTED

Listers to Call at Homes of Taxpayers for Purpose of Listing Property for Taxation for 1944; Names of Listers in Each Township

On Monday the County Commissioners met with the newly-appointed list-takers and gave them their instructions relative to the listing of property for 1944 taxation purposes. The commissioners, at the same time, announced that the list-takers will call at each home in the county sometime during the month of January to list the property, and it is requested that taxpayers list all property in their possession, answer all questions pertaining to same, and give any information which would aid in securing a just and equal listing. The co-operation of the people is asked in this regard.

According to state law, all real and personal property must be given in during the month of January, together with polls for persons between the ages of 21 and 50. Farmers will also be asked to make a crop report at the time of listing.

Following is a list of the list-takers appointed by the commissioners for the various townships:

- Bald Mountain: Wade Norris, Todd.
- Beaver Dam: W. R. Johnson, Sugar Grove.
- Blowing Rock: Fred Hartley.
- Blowing Rock: Stacy Ford, Blowing Rock.
- Boone: Ralph G. Greer, Boone.
- Brushy Fork: L. M. Hodges, Adams.
- Cove Creek: W. M. Thomas, Mabel.
- Elk: Virgil Greer, Triplett.
- Laurel Creek: Roy Trivett, Beech Creek.
- Meat Camp: Leonard Wilson, Zionville.
- New River: Howard Brookshire, Boone.
- North Fork: Riley May, Trade, Tenn.
- Shawneehaw: W. C. Smith, Banner Elk.
- Stoney Fork: Joe Coffey, Deep Gap.
- Watauga: O. J. Coffey, Shulls Mills.

Aged Beaver Dam Man Is Claimed by Death

Mr. W. A. Smitherman, aged 90 years, died at the home of a son, J. Y. Smitherman, in Beaver Dam township on the 11th, after a five-day illness from what was believed to have been a heart ailment.

Funeral services were conducted on December 12, from the Timbered Ridge Baptist Church, by Rev. N. M. Greene and Rev. E. J. Farthing, and interment was in the Greene graveyard.

Surviving are two sons and two daughters: J. Y. and Harve Smitherman; Mrs. Ellen Ward, of Reese, and Mrs. Maggie Dishman, of Mabel. A half brother, Dalt Matthews, of East Bend, also survives.

Mr. Smitherman was born in Yadkin county, but had resided in Watauga for about 70 years. He was a farmer, and a charter member of his church. He was a fine citizen, and a neighbor commenting on his death, stated, "His life was noted for honesty and industry."

Christmas Service At St. Luke's Church

There will be a midnight service on Christmas Eve at St. Luke's Episcopal Church. The doors will be open at 11:30 p. m. Everyone is cordially invited to attend this service held in honor of the Holy Birth of our Lord.

The most joyous and best loved music of the Christian church—the traditional Christmas hymns and carols—will be sung. The singing will be entirely congregational, so an opportunity to sing will be given to all who know and love this music. Before the service begins, several carols will be sung, and others will be provided for throughout the service.

The sermon topic will be: "And the Word was made Flesh."

Democrat Is Issued Earlier Than Usual For Holiday Period

The Democrat comes from the press Tuesday afternoon this week rather than on Wednesday as is usual, in order that those responsible for the issuance of the journal may have a little time to be with their families during the Christmas season—the only time in the year they get a respite from their labors. It is expected that a three-day holiday will be granted this year beginning Thursday, and that there will be business as usual at the newspaper office Monday morning after Christmas.

WELL, ANYHOW, HERE'S WISHING YOU—



Taken by Death



Joseph S. Winkler, 75, pioneer merchant and farmer of Boone, whose death occurred recently following a short illness.

DR. R. Z. LINNEY DIES SUNDAY IN NASHVILLE, TENN.

Former Local Physician Succumbs After Long Period of Failing Health; Funeral Services Conducted in Taylorsville Tuesday

Dr. R. Z. Linney, IV, who for more than a year was engaged in the practice of medicine in Boone, died in a Nashville, Tenn., hospital early Sunday morning, at the age of 43 years. Dr. Linney had been in ill health for the past six months, but his condition had been critical for only six weeks.

Funeral services were conducted in Nashville Monday morning at 9:30 and the remains were taken to Taylorsville, where they were interred at 2 o'clock Tuesday.

Dr. Linney was the son of the late Dr. R. Z. Linney, III, of Charlotte, and Mrs. Linney. He received his medical education at the University of North Carolina, and at the University of Pennsylvania, and soon after he received his license practiced for more than a year with Dr. J. B. Hagaman in Boone. Upon leaving Boone the family moved to suburban Nashville, where Dr. Linney had practiced his profession for about eight years. During his residence in Tennessee Dr. Linney had returned to Boone at every opportunity to visit at the home of his cousin, Kenneth M. Linney, and had been well-known in this community since his boyhood days. He was an eminent physician and surgeon and his services were eagerly sought by the people of this section when he resided here.

Surviving is the widow, the former Miss Maitland Thompson, of Lumberton, and one son, R. Z. Linney, V. The mother, Mrs. R. Z. Linney, of Taylorsville, also survives.

TABERNACLE SERVICES

The Gospel Tabernacle will conduct its first all-night service beginning at 7:30 Christmas eve. Services December 25 at 3 o'clock and 7:30; December 26 at 3 o'clock and 7:30. Everyone is cordially invited to attend.

The Beginning of Christmas

Editor's Note: Jim Rivers, for many years a potent force in the production of the local newspaper, once wrote a story of the birth of the Savior, for a Christmas-week edition of The Democrat. Although much water has run under the bridge since, and even more separates him from the littered desk upon which he penned his version of the beginning of Christmas, it is felt that Jim's inimitable telling of the story which will never grow old, will again be appreciated by our readers.

ALONG the rough trails of Judaea, 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 word of Caesar was law . . . Chills coursed down the spines of the depressed tribesmen as they read the stern ultimatum posted conspicuously in market-places.

Camels were packed for the long journey home by those whose industry had brought forth these expensive chattels . . . litters, born by ebon slaves, were employed to transport affluent Hebrews from adapted 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 neck. The stalwart husband came to her side, worried and sore afraid. "Can you make it into the village, Mary?" 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 smiled as they drew from dusty cellars rare red vintages for the exacting appetites of the convivial publicans! Yes, business was at a flood-tide in a village which for untold years had lain in lethargy. Even the vain Herod, tetrach 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 shekels 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 innkeeper was not in a 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 Judaea . . . 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 to all people: FOR UNTO YOU IS BORN THIS DAY IN THE CITY OF DAVID A SAVIOUR 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, Good Will toward men."

Then 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 newborn Babe, which was to bear the name of Jesus!

Back to their flocks went the jubilant shepherds, shouting praises to God for the Son which 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, 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 Judaea!

Sales of Burley Over One Million And Half Pounds; High Average Maintained

Season Average Now 47 Cents; Sales Tuesday and Wednesday Expected to Total 150,000 to Bring Pre-Christmas Selling Far Above Last Season; Wednesday Sales to Be Last of Year; To Resume Auctions January 3

27 TO GRADUATE AT APPALACHIAN TUESDAY EVENING

Judge Johnson J. Hayes to Deliver Address at First Holiday Commencement Exercises to Be Held at Appalachian State Teachers College

Twenty-seven students will be graduated with B. S. degrees from Appalachian State Teachers College this (Tuesday) evening at 7:30, in the first holiday-commencement exercises to be held at the local institution.

Judge Johnson J. Hayes of the Middle North Carolina Federal Court District will deliver the address to the graduates in the auditorium of the administration building and the public is cordially invited to hear the distinguished jurist.

The remainder of the commencement program, and the names of those graduating follow: Reccessional—J. Elwood Roberts Hymn—Holy, Holy, Holy Heber Congregation

- Invocation . . . Rev. J. C. Canipe
 - Hallelujah from "Messiah" . . . Handel
 - A Cappella Choir . . . Sibelius
 - Onward Ye People . . . A Cappella Choir
 - Conferring of degrees and awarding of diplomas . . . Dr. B. B. Dougherty
 - Benediction . . . Dr. E. K. McLarty
- The following will receive their B.S. degrees: Margaret Berrier, Naomi Broyhill, Marjorie Call, Holton B. Cornett, Janette Forbes, Betty Gerald, Virginia Goodman, Jewell Graham, Violet Graham, Elizabeth Hutchinson, Louise Kiser, Edith Lucas, Rosalind Page, Evangeline Poteat, Inez Robbins, Helen Sherwood, Dorcas Sigmon, Lena Smith, Lucille Templeton, Mae Tucker, Rachel Tucker, Anna Von Oesen, Henrietta Waddell, Robert Warren, Helen Winkler.

WATAUGANS SENT TO ARMY CENTER

Current Draft Board Quota Numbers 41; Three Transfers Are Included

Forty-one men composed the current quota for the armed forces, according to word from the Selective Service Board, and the following have been sent to an induction center of the U. S. Army. Included in the list are three transfers from other boards:

- Stewart Glenn Shore
- Walter Raymond Warren
- William Francis Tester
- Stacey Lewis Bingham
- Ottie Bliss Miller
- Floyd Eggers
- Thomas Wilson Moretz
- Russell Thaddeus Norris
- Lloyd Estel Roark
- Frank Martin Simmons
- Wilborn John Barrier
- Jacob Smith Snyder, Jr.
- Lloyd Earl Smith
- Robert Bryan Shull
- John Ellis Johnson
- John Luther Keller
- Robert T. Gross
- Rufus Andrew Shull
- Robert Edward Day
- Russell Dean Swift, Jr.
- Lee Henry Jones
- Jordan W. Cook
- Arlie Clint Coffey
- Stanley Carl Love
- Charles Hamp Blackburn, Jr.
- Gene Jones Bingham
- Alton Edward Hodges, Jr.
- Paul Lee Miller
- Schlyer Lewis Wilson
- George Donald Church
- Milton Waistel Greene, Jr.
- Ernest Lee Rowe
- Dillard Lee Watson
- William Vance Ward
- Norman Filmore Watson
- Newland Wellborn
- Roy Grover Presnell
- Elmer William Bryan
- George Wesley Townsend
- Billy Lillard Michael
- Henry Clay Eggers
- Albert Glenn Price
- James Perry Mast
- Charles Walter Dotson
- Transferred from other boards: Arthur William Hartung
- Fletcher Nancy Flowers
- Jonathan Howard Ragan

BIG CORN YIELD

Mr. B. J. Davis, of Bone R. F. D. 2, was in town the other day and tells The Democrat that despite the serious shortage of farm labor, he was able to gather 75 bushels of corn from a single acre on his farm.

BUY WAR SAVINGS BONDS

Monday's sale of 143,000 pounds of tobacco at the Mountain Burley Warehouses here, brought the total poundage for the season to 1,514,000, for a season average of 47 cents, states R. C. Coleman, operator of the local market.

As this issue of The Democrat is printed Tuesday, sales had not been started on the local floors, but conservative estimates place Tuesday and Wednesday sales at 150,000 pounds, which would bring the pre-Christmas sales to approximately 1,800 pounds, or 300,000 above the record of a year ago.

Mr. Coleman, who conducted thorough surveys of the burley belt before the start of the sales this year, thinks it is very likely that his houses will sell three-quarters of a million pounds after Christmas. At any rate he confidently expects the total sales for the 1943-44 season to be 250,000 to 400,000 ahead of last season, for a total of 2,250,000 to 2,650,000 pounds.

Sales Close Wednesday
Mr. Coleman states that auction sales will close Wednesday and that the first sales of the New Year will be conducted on January 3. The houses will be closed Friday, Saturday and Sunday, but will reopen for the receipt of tobacco Monday following Christmas.

Empty Stocking Fund Reaches Sum of \$61.50

When The Democrat's Empty Stocking Fund was closed the end of the week \$61.50 had been subscribed, for which those trying to aid the destitute children express sincere thanks. The final report on the status of the fund follows:

Previously reported \$32.50

- Mrs. Dean Bingham . . . 1.00
- Lions Club . . . 10.00
- Dr. R. C. Busted . . . 5.00
- Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Qualls . . . 5.00
- Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Webster . . . 2.00
- Friday Afternoon Club . . . 5.00
- T. M. Greer . . . 1.00

Babson Business Outlook Will Be Printed Next Week

As is customary, The Democrat next week will carry Roger W. Babson's Business and Financial Outlook for 1944, presenting this valuable feature to its readers at the same time it is released to the dailies for publication.

Babson's forecasts on the war and the elections are the most startling statements he has made since he predicted the 1929 stock market crash.

Two Watauga Men Are Given Paroles

Two Watauga County men were included in the list of those granted paroles by Governor Broughton last week.

Adolphus Thomas, of North Fork township, has been released after serving approximately 18 months of a five to seven years sentence for the fatal shooting of a cousin, Bon Thomas.

George Moretz, of Boone, was paroled, having served a little more than two years of a 12 to 15 year sentence in the slaying of William Lowrance of Cove Creek township.

Triples Born to Mr. and Mrs. Lyon

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Lyon, of Boone, are the proud parents of triplets, two girls and a boy, born at the Dr. Hagaman Clinic last Friday.

The children are described as being perfectly normal, in fine health, and they are all expected to survive. Names for the three youngsters had not been selected the first of the week.

STORES TO CLOSE ON NEXT MONDAY

The stores of the city will be closed next Monday, for an added Christmas holiday, it was decided by the merchants Tuesday morning. Shoppers are asked to bear this in mind, and attend to their wants before Christmas, so that no inconvenience may result.

SEAL SALE REPORT

Cove Creek reports the sale of \$52.38 in Christmas Seals, this being the only report to come to the newspaper office this week.

With more cows on farms than last year, milk production was down 2 per cent in November. Egg production was about 4 per cent higher.