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## POSTAL RECEIPTS REFLECT GROWTH LOCAL BUSINESS

Postmaster Brown Reveals Interesting Figures Relative to Local Postal Establishment; 250,000 Pieces of Outgoing Mail in December

Postal receipts at the Boone office during 1944 showed a marked increase over those of 1943, according to Postmaster John E. Brown, Jr., who gives out some very enlightening information on the business of the local postoffice, indicating its growth as well as giving some idea of the status of business conditions generally.

The revenue, it is pointed out, at the local postoffice during the year 1944 was \$25,281.60, as compared with \$22,289.10 during 1943, or an increase of \$2,992.50. The quarter ended with December, 1944, indicated business of \$1,272.10 more than that of the corresponding quarter of 1943, said Postmaster Brown.

An idea of the business at the local postoffice during the Christmas period can be gained by the fact that 42,283 letters were mailed during the week ending December 23, 1944, while an estimate of the number of pieces of mail handled during December is 250,000.

Interesting is the fact that the Christmas card business brought the local sale of 40,000 1½ cent stamps in the two-weeks period prior to Christmas day. During the same time there were 20,000 3-cent stamps sold.

Concluding his recounting of the postal figures, Postmaster Brown says:

"The public has been considerate regarding the changes in rates of air mail, insurance and registry during the past year. The Watauga Democrat has published from time to time information relative to the mails, both domestic and for the members of the armed forces, which has proven invaluable to the postoffice and the public interest.

"The information given as to the revenues of the postoffice does not reflect the trend of business of this establishment only, but has in the past proven to be representative of the business conditions locally."

## AAA REPORTS TO BE FILED SOON

Local Triple-A Committee Says Farmers Should File by Feb. 15 for Payment

February 15, 1945, is the last date on which performance reports may be filed as a basis for making a net payment to producers on 1944 applications for payment, W. W. Mast, chairman of the Watauga County AAA Committee, announced here Monday.

"Payment of 1944 applications is to be completed during the early months of 1945, therefore, it is necessary that performance reports be filed early in order to provide opportunity for timely preparation and audit in the county and state offices," he stated.

Mr. Mast pointed out that applications for payment based on performance reports filed after the closing date may be processed for payment only if it is determined by the state committee, on recommendation of the county committee, that the producer was prevented from filing within the specified time (1) because he was a member of the armed forces, or (2) because of prolonged illness. "All eligible farmers who have not already filed performance reports and signed applications for payment, are urged to do so at once," he declared.

## Week of Prayer To Be Observed Here

The Universal Week of Prayer is observed simultaneously throughout the world during the first full week in January. The date fixed for 1945 is Jan. 7-14. The Week of Prayer will be sponsored this year in Boone in a series of union services in the different churches. The union service for Monday night will be held in the Methodist church, Tuesday in the Lutheran church, Wednesday in the Baptist church, Thursday in the Advent church, Friday in the Presbyterian church. These services will be held at 7:30 p. m. The public is cordially invited to attend any and all of these services. Let us begin the new year with fervent prayer for the progress of the kingdom of God and the peace of the world.

## Form Ihsoby Club in France



Charter members of the Ihsoby (I Haven't Seen Our Baby Yet) club compare pictures of their offspring at the Brittany Red Cross club, somewhere in France. Left to right: Pvt. Fred D. Davis, Jr., Pine Bluff, Ark.; Cpl. Gustave Stowe, Deerfield, Wis.; Sgt. James W. Mason, Ensley, Ala., and Pvt. Robert S. Anderson, St. Petersburg, Fla.

## WARNS PEOPLE OF OVEROPTIMISM

Sgt. Culler Back From 29 Months. Says Germans Are a Tough Lot

Staff Sgt. Baxter Culler, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Culler, of Zionville, who has just returned for a 30-day furlough with his parents from 29 months in the European fighting area, warns the people that "when the news seems good at times, don't get too optimistic, the Germans are a tough lot, and it's going to take some time to finish them off."

Sgt. Culler, true to army tradition, tells little of what is taking place, but he does state that the American troops are accorded the very finest treatment, have the finest medical care in the world, plenty of good food, good clothing, etc.

Sgt. Culler was in England for 10 months, served in North Africa for ten months, and the balance of his 29 months, with travel time out, was spent in fighting the Germans on the western front. He states his health is excellent, that he suffered no wounds, but refrains from disclosing where he will go or what his orders are after his furlough ends. He intimates, however, that he hasn't yet finished his part of the fight.

## AAA Commtee Makes Announcement As To 1945 Price On Burley

The OPA has announced that the proposed ceiling prices at the grower level for sales and purchases of burley tobacco of the 1945 crop are the same as the ceiling prices in effect for these sales and purchases for grower tobacco of the 1944 crop," W. W. Mast, chairman of the Watauga County AAA committee, said yesterday.

"According to OPA, the advance notice of the proposed ceiling prices for burley tobacco of the 1945 crop is made for the benefit of growers in planning their 1945 production and is in compliance with the emergency control act of 1942, as amended," Mr. Mast stated.

Mr. Mast pointed out that the proposed prices are on the basis of Federal grading and are the same as the prices now in effect for the 1944 crop of burley tobacco.

## Preachers and Deacons To Gather On Monday

The regular monthly meeting of the preachers and deacons of the Three Forks Baptist Association will be held at the Boone Baptist Church next Monday at 2 o'clock.

All preachers and deacons are urged to attend this meeting.

## Chronology of Year Is Being Published

The Democrat feels fortunate in again being able to present to its readers a comprehensive summary of happenings of the year 1944 on the home front and foreign fields, and this feature is to be found on page seven of this edition.

For a number of years The Democrat has used this page, and it has been found invaluable as a scrap book piece, and a source of ready reference.

## In Assembly



Representative S. C. Eggers, who has assumed his duties in the State Legislature, which is expected to hold its first session at noon today (Wednesday).

## E BOND QUOTA IS SAFELY PASSED

Chairman Greene's Estimates Indicate That County Has Done Share in Sixth War Loan

Watauga county has safely passed her E bond quota, according to estimates of Clyde R. Greene, chairman of the War Savings Staff for Watauga county. Mr. Greene stated this morning that although final returns hadn't been received from the Federal Reserve Bank, it seemed that Watauga county people had bought \$84,500 or more in E bonds. The quota was \$84,000.

The county had long since passed her overall quota of \$117,000. It now appears that overall sales of bonds during the campaign just closed are about \$482,000.

In the next edition of The Democrat a full statement of the Sixth War Loan campaign in the county will be published.

## THREE WOUNDED IN BATTLE AREAS

Watauga's Casualty List Mounts as New Names Added to Long Roll

The list of those from Watauga county, who have suffered wounds in the present world conflict continues to grow. This week there is information of three others who have suffered injuries, but in neither case is the details given.

Sgt. Bynum H. Harrison, son of Mrs. Lelia M. Harrison, of RFD 1, Blowing Rock, has been wounded in the Mediterranean theatre.

Pvt. Max L. Miller, son of Mrs. Minnie J. Miller, of Zionville, was wounded in the European area.

S-Sgt. Finley R. Watson was wounded in the European theatre, according to information received by his wife, Mrs. Mary S. Watson, who resides on Banner Elk route.

The United States army has its own navy, largest fleet of small craft in the world. There are 15,000 bottoms in this fleet, many made of steel, and they cruise in coastal and inland waters in most parts of the world.

**BUY WAR BONDS**

## CHERRY DELIVERS USUAL INAUGURAL ADDRESS TODAY

Second Governor of State to Be Sworn in During Wartime in Stirring Message to the Members of the General Assembly; His Proposals

Raleigh, Jan. 4.—R. Gregg Cherry, of Gastonia, lawyer, legislator and former soldier, today took his oath of office as Governor of North Carolina and delivered an inaugural address that embraced his recommendations to the general assembly. The legislative body, in joint session, heard the address.

Emphasis was given to matters of finance, health, education, highways, agriculture, welfare, labor and the handling of veterans and their affairs at the close of the present war.

Governor Cherry is the second Governor of the state to be inaugurated during wartime. Zeb Vance, the other such governor, took his oath of office while the Civil War was in progress.

### Finance

In his statement of fiscal policy, Governor Cherry said that appropriations for the coming biennium "must be kept within the availability of revenues estimated to be received during the biennium." The present general fund surplus he added, will amount to \$70,000,000 by June of 1945, because of abnormal wartime business conditions. "This surplus must not be dissipated in current expenditures," he said. He added that this money should be used to provide for the retirement of state debts, to come due in future years.

His recommendations along this line are for the setting aside of a sufficient portion of this surplus to meet all general fund bonded debt payments as they come due, both principal and interest. He said this would take \$52,000,000 and would, by this provision, also reduce current levies of taxation by \$5,000,000. The remainder of the surplus should go into a postwar reserve fund, he continued, to serve as a cushion against a sudden decline in revenue, or for other possible needs and purposes that might arise.

### Education

Turning to education, he suggested an eight-point program to strengthen the public school system. He wants: a base pay of \$125 per month for A-grade teachers just starting in the profession, with increment for experience; an expanded program of vocational training; free text books through the eighth grade and rental fees on high school books, only high enough to maintain the rental system; 10 months pay for principals to provide for time on the job before school opens and after it closes; raising compulsory attendance age from 14 to 16 years; a program of additional compensation for exceptional teachers; state aid in supplying better sanitation facilities in connection with schools; and better fiscal control of public school funds.

He pointed to future highway needs and said that as men and materials are available he wanted all-weather roads for all communities.

### Veterans

The address also called for supplying the needs of 300,000 war veterans who will return to the state. This should be cared for from the postwar reserve fund—"when the needs of the veterans can be determined."

The governor said a grateful state should provide new educational opportunities for these men and women, and should acquaint them with their rights. The children of those who gave their lives in battle are deserving of ample protection at the hands of the state.

The governor also advocated: A strong department of conservation and development; better care of the state's less fortunate; adequate representation of labor on all state commissions and boards dealing with the problems of labor; a constitutional amendment that will make women available for jury service and remove all other discriminations that exist against them in the state constitution; the establishment of a department of state police to include several now existing state law-enforcement agencies; a state-wide referendum on the liquor question; and further assistance for libraries throughout the state.

### FEED WHEAT NOW AVAILABLE

The Watauga County Agricultural Conservation Association has recently received two cars of feed wheat to be sold to livestock producers. The price of this wheat for the month of January is \$1.45 per bushel.

## Eat First Hot Meal



The china platters seem out of place as Stephen Longstreth, Carnegie, Pa., infantryman, eats his first hot meal after 15 days of siege of the town of Hurtgen, Germany.

## Sherwood Man Is Killed In Action

Pfc. Ernest L. Presnell, 20 years old, a resident of Sherwood, was killed in action in France on December 1, information received by relatives reveal.

Pfc. Presnell, who was a son of Mrs. Maggie Presnell and the late John H. Presnell, entered the service of his country in June, 1943, and had been in the European theatre of operations since May, 1944.

Surviving is the mother, four brothers and one sister: Ralph Presnell, Sugar Grove; Glenn Presnell, Blowing Rock; Bynum Presnell, Wilmington, N. C.; Conrad Presnell, Sparta; and Mrs. L. C. Miller, Boone.

## Lt. David F. Greene, Jr. One of Seven to Get Distinguished Cross

The War Department has announced the award of the Distinguished Service Cross to seven North Carolinians, one of whom is First Lieutenant David F. Greene, Jr., of Greensboro, formerly of this city. All given the high air force award are members of the 10th Army Air force.

Lt. Greene, who was reared in Boone, and who is a grandson of Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Greene of this city, has seen air action in various theatres of war for a number of months. The family moved to Greensboro several years ago.

## Snow Masonic Lodge to Hold First Meeting Here

The Masons of Snow Lodge No. 363, will hold their first communication in Junior Order Hall in Boone Friday evening at 7:30, it is announced by T. M. Greer, W. M., and J. E. Clay, secretary.

The Lodge, which was established at Sugar Grove, and which has functioned throughout the years, is one of the oldest Masonic organizations of this immediate section. Recently it was decided that for the convenience of most of the members, Boone would be a more desirable location, and arrangements were made for using the Junior Order Hall until such time as property could be acquired.

The property at Sugar Grove was sold to Mr. A. C. Mast. Installation of officers will feature the Friday evening meeting, and there will likely be work in the second degree.

## Winter Shows Little Sign of Relaxing Grip

The relatively mild temperatures of Sunday, which aroused belief in many that there was to be a respite from the frigid wave of the past several weeks, were replaced Monday evening by another fall of snow, driven by a terrific gale, which for a time interfered with travel, and led some to the belief that Boone and environs were in for an old-time blizzard. However, the storm soon spent its fury, but Tuesday morning the mercury hovered close to the zero mark in one of the coldest periods of the winter.

Tuesday afternoon, however, the weather is bright and there are again hopes that there will be a continued change for the better.

Latin American growers will produce a substantial supply of Manila hemp, which was cut off by the advance of the Japanese in the Pacific.

Fertilize your crop in accordance with your rotation, says Dr. Emerson Collins, in charge of extension agronomy at State College.

## SALES OF BURLEY PASS TWO MILLION MARK ON TUESDAY

Houses Now on New Schedule; Prices Continue High With Steady Receipts. Shortened Hours Caused by Labor Shortages in Factories

Sales of tobacco at the Mountain Burley Warehouses went far beyond the two-million mark with the auctions of Tuesday, when 131,942 pounds of weed were auctioned for an average price of \$46.84 per hundredweight. This brings the season's total to 2,044,102.

On Monday 119,000 pounds were sold for an average of \$46.53 in the first sale of the post-Christmas season.

Tobacco continues to arrive at the local houses and this morning warehousemen say there is about 130,000 pounds of weed on the floor ready for the start of the sale.

### Pre-Christmas Totals

Final figures indicate that in the pre-Christmas period 1,793,180 pounds of tobacco was sold for \$839,556.59, or an average of \$46.42 per hundred. The big day of the current season came on December 18, a check-up of the figures reveals, when 362,240 pounds were sold for \$172,377.34, or an average of \$47.59.

Falling in line with a schedule adopted throughout the burley belt, the market went on a two-hour sales day with the opening of sales Monday.

The new schedule was adopted by the Lexington, Ky. Tobacco Board of Trade and is being adopted by other markets in the belt in an effort to relieve labor shortages, causing congestion in factories, it was learned. The schedule is expected to be temporary.

## RICHARDSON IS HOUSE SPEAKER

Union County Solon Wins in Caucus; Most Opinion Is For Short Session

Raleigh, Jan. 2.—Representative Oscar L. Richardson, of Union county, who served his first term in 1939, received the Democratic nomination for speaker of the house tonight over Representative George Uzzell, of Rowan. The vote was 70 to 31.

A total of 102 of the 106 Democratic representatives attended the caucus, which saw the somewhat unusual speakership fight taken to the floor. Generally, where there are only two contestants, one withdraws prior to the meeting.

The 14 Republicans, meanwhile, nominated Representative T. Edgar Story, of Wilkes, for speaker, and his name will be presented tomorrow before the full house by Representative J. H. Hutchins, of Madison. The designation automatically made Story the minority leader.

The consensus of early arriving legislators was that the session would adjourn sine die by March 15, and some of them predicted that the first week in March would see the end. The task of raising additional revenue, they said, would not confront this assembly. A continuing revenue act eliminates the necessity of a section-by-section study of the money-raising laws.

The state's tax structure, a liquor referendum, increased appropriations to mental institutions, postwar highway construction, schools and assistance to war veterans will be high among the assembly's considerations.

The assembly will get down to business in earnest Friday, faced with the task of handling an unprecedented surplus expected to total \$70,000,000 at the end of the current biennium, and to meet appropriations requests and recommendations which, if granted, will set a new record.

## Knitters Are Needed For Red Cross Quota

Mrs. W. M. Burwell, chairman of the Watauga Chapter, Red Cross, states that a new local knitting quota has been assigned which consists of 86 army v-neck sweaters, and volunteer knitters are urged to come in to get the material, so that this quota may be met quickly.

Due to the heavy demands of the armed forces in keeping with the quickened tempo of the war, workers should start immediately on this new quota.

Mrs. Burwell states that knitters are yet needed to complete 90 pairs of navy gloves. She is anxious that this work be finished to clear up last year's quota.