

# WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

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## NORTHWESTERN BANK HAS GOOD BUSINESS YEAR

**Stockholders of Institution Gather in Annual Meeting and Elect Board Directors; Three Watauga County Men on Board of Directors**

Stockholders of the Northwestern Bank in annual meeting in North Wilkesboro Tuesday heard the report of excellent business during the past year and re-elected the board of directors, who re-elected the present officers for another year.

The annual meeting was held in the home office of the bank, which has branches in Boone, Blowing Rock, Sparta, Jefferson, Burnsville, Bakersville, Black Mountain, Valdese, Spruce Pine and Taylorsville. R. A. Doughton, of Sparta, president, presided for the stockholders meeting. The reports of the year showed that the bank had made much progress and that the usual 12 per cent dividend was paid for the year.

The stockholders re-elected the directors and one new director, C. A. Lowe, of North Wilkesboro. The directors re-elected were R. A. Doughton, Harry Bailey, W. C. Berry, J. D. Brinkley, R. L. Doughton, Ralph Duncan, W. D. Farthing, G. W. Greene, M. A. Higgins, W. W. Mast, M. E. Reeves, N. B. Smith and Gordon H. Winkler.

The bank's officers, all of whom were re-elected by the directors, are: R. A. Doughton, president; Edwin Duncan, executive vice-president; John C. McBee, Sr., vice-president; D. V. Deal, secretary.

The bank closed the year 1944 with resources totaling \$20,601,052.16, and deposits of \$19,683,042.05. The Northwestern Bank is now one of the largest banks in western North Carolina.

## BLOWING ROCK LEADER PASSES

**Rev. L. Edward Robbins, Former Baptist Pastor, and Mayor, Claimed by Death**

Rev. L. Edward Robbins, 65 years of age, former mayor of Blowing Rock, died in a Statesville hospital last Thursday morning after a brief illness.

Funeral services were conducted Friday at 3 o'clock from the Blowing Rock Baptist Church by Rev. Ben L. Ray, Rev. Robert Shores and Rev. W. K. Keys. Interment was in the Blowing Rock cemetery, Reins-Sturdivant Funeral Home being in charge of the arrangements.

Mr. Robbins founded Sandy Flat Baptist church and was for many years its pastor. Later he was engaged in building construction work. He was active in the civic life of Blowing Rock. He served two terms as mayor.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Sophronia Greene Robbins; a daughter, Mrs. Mary Herring, of Blowing Rock; two sons, Lloyd Robbins of Blowing Rock, and George T. Robbins of Warsaw, Va.; ten grand children; four sisters, Mrs. Rufus Coffey, Mrs. William Hinson, Mrs. Bertha Dula and Mrs. Frank Simmons, all of Blowing Rock, and a brother, W. Lee Robbins, of Blowing Rock.

## Ten Watauga Boys Enter Naval Reserve

Ten 17-year-old young men have been accepted and sworn in the U. S. Naval Reserve at Raleigh, according to Navy Recruiter J. E. Hoffman, who is at the Boone postoffice each Monday. These men are now at the naval training station or home on inactive duty, according to the recruiter.

They are: Baxter Greer Farthing, Valle Crucis; Creed Lewis Hollars, Valle Crucis; Jeff Hildreth Pritchard, Heaton; Walter Carroll Davis, Route 2, Boone; Ronda Kay Hardin, Deep Gap; William C. Downs, Blowing Rock; Howard S. Steelman, Jr., Deep Gap; Thomas William Greene, Blowing Rock; Phil Hale Vance, Jr., Boone; Stephen Hawthorne Johnson, Blowing Rock, and Edward Burl Winkler, Boone.

In addition to 17-year-olds, men with experience on bulldozers, cranes and road machinery are needed in the Seabees, and men who have been accepted at pre-induction camps are eligible to take the radio technicians test to qualify them for extensive training in radio and radar. Single men with high school education between the ages of 17 and 27 who have not received their call for pre-induction examinations, are eligible to try for the navy's air-crewman program which provides a year's intensive training in aviation radio and gunnery. All 17-year-old youths are asked to see the recruiter at the Boone postoffice on any Monday to get information about these qualifying tests.

## AMERICAN LEGION MEETING

The Watauga Post American Legion and Auxiliary will meet Friday at 7:30 p. m. at the legion hut. All members of both organizations are asked to attend.

## Receives Purple Heart



Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Lawrence of Mountain City, Tenn., have received the Purple Heart, awarded their son, Pfc. Thomas Eugene Lawrence, Pfc. Lawrence was wounded in France November 18. He was later moved to England by plane and is now in a general hospital in England. His parents received word last week that he is slowly improving.

## POLIO CAMPAIGN GETS UNDER WAY

**\$200 is Received in Drive For Funds With Which to Fight Infantile Paralysis**

The local campaign to raise \$1,740 with which to fight infantile paralysis, officially started on Monday of this week, and Howard Cottrell, local chairman, has already received about \$200 toward the county's goal.

A small dance given at the high school last Friday evening showed a profit of \$80.00, and one or two contributions have been reported from school districts.

Another dance will be held at the high school Thursday evening of this week, Mr. Cottrell states, and tickets are on sale at the different business houses of the city. A full attendance is desired, so that as much as possible may be realized for the fund.

Chairman Cottrell has formed a good organization throughout the county, and school teachers are co-operating closely in an effort to reach the quota. All contributions will be welcomed, and in view of the inroads made on Watauga children by polio last year, it is felt that local people will deem it a privilege to aid in this worthy effort.

## Representative Eggers Gets Committee Posts In State Legislature

Representative S. C. Eggers, of Watauga county, was named a member of seven standing committees in the House of Representatives by Speaker Richardson last week.

The local assemblyman is a member of the following committees: Conservation and Development, Education, Journal, Military Affairs, Public Welfare, Roads, and Printing. Representative Eggers is returning to Boone week-ends to be with his family and to confer with his constituency.

## Flood of Red Troops Pour Into Polish Plain

London, Jan. 17—Two great Russian army groups poured like a red flood through broken Nazi defenses on the Polish plain south of Warsaw today, reaching within 38 miles of the German border.

Gathering speed as it went, the gigantic Soviet winter offensive recorded gains of 30 to 38 miles on a twisting battlefield more than 200 miles long from Grojec, 25 miles southwest of Warsaw, down to Slomniki, only 12 miles north of the historic citadel of Krakow.

Premier Stalin in two triumphant orders of the day last night disclosed that besides the first Ukrainian army group that began the offensive Jan. 12, the powerful first White Russian group had leaped into the assault Jan. 14 and in three days had advanced from the Vistula 38 miles on a 75-mile wide front.

## Sugar Grove Man Sells Record Crop of Burley

Mr. H. J. Younce, of Sugar Grove, tells The Democrat of selling a crop of burley tobacco on the local warehouse floors for what warehousemen believe is something of a record for both poundage and price.

Mr. Younce, who was farming on the T. J. Banner place at the foot of George's Gap, raised 2,802 pounds of burley on 1.4 acres, which was disposed of for the net sum of \$1,572.14, or an average of 57 cents. The high grade sold for 58 cents, while a small amount brought a low of 52.

Mr. Younce states that he and Mrs. Younce, both 60 years old, raised the record burley crop, that little help could be procured, and that they were able to carry on their regular farm work besides.

## HALSEY'S FLEET IN BIG BLOWS ON JAP SHIPS

**More Than 100,000 Tons of Nipponese Shipping is Destroyed in Three Days Up and Down China Coast; Not Many Enemy Planes Are Found**

U. S. Pacific Fleet Headquarters, Pearl Harbor, Jan. 16—Admiral William F. Halsey's free-roving third fleet wound up a week of the most audacious naval operations of the war by sending carrier planes Saturday, Sunday and Monday up and down more than 350 miles of the China coast, destroying or damaging more than 100,000 tons of Japanese shipping and heavily smashing such choice targets as Canton and Hongkong.

Against amazingly puny enemy air opposition—suggesting Japan's air force has its hands full over the homeland and the Philippines—the carrier planes ruled the skies as they did over French Indo-China's shore Jan. 11 and over Formosa Jan. 8.

Formosa, once considered a formidable target by itself, was attacked Saturday, Sunday and Monday at the same time other carrier planes were sinking enemy oilers, bombing the royal navy docks at Hongkong and the harbor at Canton.

In raids dating back to the Jan. 8 assault on Formosa, Halsey's planes now have accounted for well over 300,000 tons of enemy shipping, including several escort warships, and more than 250 planes—the latter figure so low because so few planes have been encountered, the bulk of them on the ground.

Even this is far from the picture of devastation wrought because Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, in disclosing the preliminary results of the China raids today, gave only incomplete totals for Sunday and Monday and none at all for Saturday.

## JOHN F. SHERRILL TAKEN BY DEATH

**Well Known Citizen Succumbs to Long Illness; Funeral Services Friday**

John F. Sherrill, 71 years old, prominent citizen of Boone, died at Purlear, Wilkes county, last Wednesday, where he had been making his home for the past few months with a daughter, Miss Stella Sherrill. He had been in bad health for about three years, but for the past year his condition had been considerably serious.

Funeral services were conducted Friday at 11 o'clock from the Advent Christian Church by the pastor, Dr. F. E. Warman, who was assisted by Rev. S. E. Gragg of Shulls Mills, and interment was in the cemetery at Pine Grove near Boone.

He is survived by the widow, the former Miss Sallie Cook, four daughters and three sons: Miss Stella Sherrill of Boone; Mrs. J. C. Hayes, Cumberland, Va.; Mrs. A. E. Vanoy of Shulls Mills, and Mrs. Edna Penick of Boone. There are three sons: Allen Sherrill, Plainfield, N. J.; Eber Sherrill and Oren Sherrill of Boone. There are 15 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Mr. Sherrill was born on New River in Watauga county, a son of the late William and Mary Sherrill. He resided in the Poplar Grove section for many years where he engaged in farming and in carpentry. Seventeen years ago, he established a woodworking shop in Boone, which he operated until ill health forced his retirement. Mr. Sherrill was converted and joined the Pine Grove Advent Christian Church in 1900, and for many years was a song leader and teacher of the Bible class at that church. He always took an active interest in matters of religious concern and was a splendid citizen.

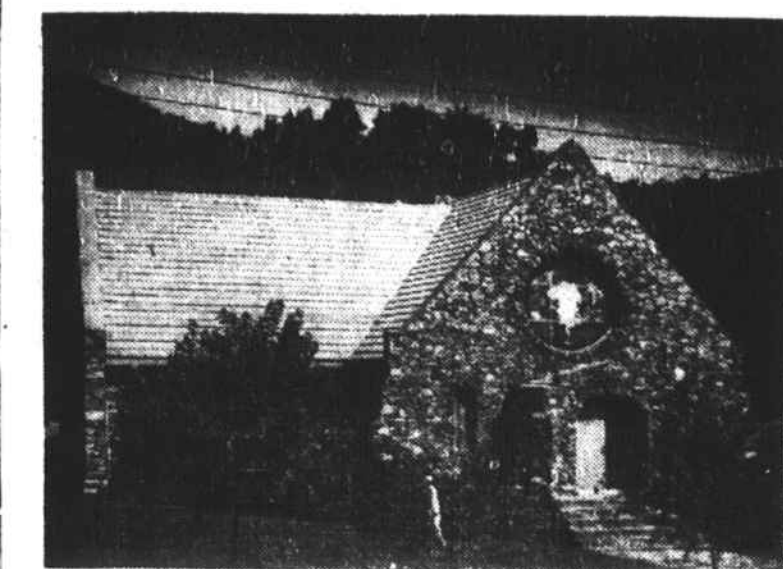
## Nursing Activities of the Health Department During the Year 1944

By VIRGINIA B. SMITH (Public Health Nurse)

Work has been greatly handicapped in the health department during the year due to the fact that Dr. King, the health officer, resigned in March to become a medical missionary in the Belgian Congo. To date the state board of health has been unable to find a physician to fill his position. However, we are very grateful to Dr. H. B. Perry for his splendid assistance and advice in carrying on the various activities of the health department.

Education of the people to the use of scientific measures now available for their own protection and that of others is an essential factor in controlling the spread of communicable diseases. Sometimes it takes a sad tragedy as the one experienced in Watauga during the past summer to make the people realize this. During the months of June, July and August, there were reported in the same section of the county eleven cases of typhoid fever involving five

## LOCAL CHURCHES CLEAR DEBTS



The Advent Christian Church of Boone, whose congregation finished paying the entire debt on the structure Sunday, January 6, and Dr. F. E. Warman, the pastor, states that dedicatory services will be held some time in the spring. The handsome stone church, which is much admired by tourists and others, was built in 1925, and the small congregation has worked as a unit in clearing the debt from the structure. The congregation was organized in the old Episcopal Church building by Rev. J. A. Downs of Caldwell county, and plans instituted for the erection of the building. Rev. J. F. Whitman had preached here, Rev. Mr. Baldwin was pastor for a time, and different ministers had taken care of the work during the summers. Dr. Warman came here in 1935. Detailed plans for the dedication will be announced when formulated.



St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Boone, whose pastor, Rev. W. C. Leach, has announced that the building was completely paid for during the holidays. The church was dedicated upon its erection in 1940, but the laws of the church are that a building may not be consecrated until free of all debt. In the spring, at a time to be announced, the Rt. Rev. Robert E. Gribbin, Bishop of the Diocese of Western North Carolina, will consecrate the structure. The building cost nearly \$4,000, and it is a source of pride and satisfaction that consecration is to take place in less than five years from the time the building program was inaugurated.

## Pfc. Hosey A. Wilson Missing On Oct. 28, Prisoner of Germans

Pfc. Hosey A. Wilson, son of Mr. and Mrs. John C. Wilson, of Zionville, is a prisoner of the German government, according to a telegram received by his parents on January 10, from the office of the Adjutant General.

Pfc. Wilson had been reported missing in action in France on October 28.

## New Nurses To Be Added to Hospital Staff

Miss Faye Washam, registered nurse of Huntersville, N. C., has been employed at the Watauga Hospital.

Miss Washam was trained at Davis Hospital, Statesville, has had four years experience in surgery, and for the past four months has been at City Hospital in Baltimore. Next week Miss Cleo Ray will be added to the local nursing staff. She was trained at Martin Memorial Hospital, Mount Airy, and recently has been night supervisor at an Asheville hospital.

## Shulls Mills Soldier Receives Silver Star For Gallantry in Italy

With the Fifth Army in Italy—Sgt. Ritter H. Dean of Shulls Mills, has recently been awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action.

S-Sgt. Dean has been overseas since April, 1944. He entered the service in November, 1942. His wife and their son are with her parents, Dr. and Mrs. Munro of Grand Junction, Colo.

## Mrs. W. G. Cornell Claimed by Death

Funeral services for Mrs. W. G. Cornell, age 70 years, were held in the Mount Lebanon Baptist Church Thursday afternoon, Jan. 11. The rites were conducted by Rev. Vilas Minton, assisted by Rev. N. M. Greene, Rev. Ronda Earp and Rev. J. C. Canipe. Reins-Sturdivant Funeral Home was in charge of the details. Interment was in the family cemetery.

A large number of friends gathered to pay their respects at the bier of the well-known mother. The floral offering was beautiful.

Mrs. Carroll died in the Baptist Hospital at Winston-Salem. She was the widow of the late G. W. Cornell of Vilas. Before her marriage she was Miss Birddoty Maliba, daughter of the late George Maliba of Blowing Rock.

She is survived by five sons and five daughters: Allen Vance and Ira Cornell, of Kansas City, Mo.; Stewart and Howard Cornell of Vilas; Mrs. Alvin Cannon, Mrs. Jack Harrison of Boone; Mrs. Milton Dugger of Elk Park; Mrs. Hayes Hollars of De Havre, Md., and Mrs. Lofton Berry of Newport News, Va. She has 55 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Also surviving is one sister, Mrs. L. Hartley of Gastonia, N. C.

**Pfc. John W. Hollar Wounded In Action**

Pfc. John W. Hollar was slightly wounded in action in the European area on November 24th, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Hollar, of Vilas, have been advised.

Pfc. Hollar is now in a hospital in England.

**GOOD TOBACCO YIELD**

Mr. Will Wilson of Reece, on Monday sold 2,478 pounds of tobacco at the local market for \$1,197.25, net. The average price was 50 cents per pound.

## BURLEY RECEIPTS CONTINUE STEADY ON LOCAL MARKET

**Season's Sales Are Expected to Soar Well Above Four Million Pounds; No Date for Market Closing Has Been Announced by Warehousemen**

Receipts of burley tobacco at the local warehouses are steady, as the market continues its record-breaking stride with every indication that by closing time, the season sales will run far ahead of the four million pound mark.

Prices are continuing to average in the high forties at the local warehouses, and farmers continue to express complete satisfaction over the record prices they are receiving for their crops.

The Democrat was unable to get actual warehouse figures this morning, but total sales must be well beyond three and a half million pounds. Reports from individual farmers indicate that the high averages are continuing to be paid, with perhaps some strengthening of the price since the Christmas holidays.

No announcement has been made as to the closing of the market by Mr. Coleman, the warehouseman, but farmers are handling their tobacco rapidly, and moving the late-graded crops onto the floors as quickly as possible. Sales are being conducted each day as usual except Saturday, on a three-hour sale schedule, made necessary by the shortage of labor in the plants of the tobacco processors.

## LIEUT. STEWART TALKS TO LIONS

**Naval Officer, Back From Pacific War, Gives Lions Talk on War Against Japs**

Lieut. Flucie Stewart was guest speaker at the regular meeting of the Boone Lion's Club Tuesday night of this week. Lieut. Stewart opened his talk by commenting on the liveliness of the local Lions Club.

In the Boone Lions Club are many men who saw battle service in World War I. Lieut. Stewart's story of the marine, a private, who knocked out seven Jap tanks with a bazooka gun and several hand grenades, was a thriller for his comrades of World War I. The frank presentation of how he helped to initiate a new officer fresh from the States into the ways of Jap air attacks helped his listeners to relieve that fear which accompanies imminent danger.

Lieut. Stewart was loud in his praise of the fighting our marines have done in the Pacific; the marines know how to fight the Jap. The Red Cross has rendered a wonderful service for the boys in the Pacific, says Lieut. Stewart.

New candidates to be initiated into the club at a later date are Grady Moretz, Jim Winkler, Rev. J. K. Parker, Howard Cottrell, W. J. Kelsey, Lionel Ward and J. R. Craven. The club welcomes the new candidates into its lair.

Guests present were Lieut. Stewart, Jim Council and E. W. Wright. The Boy Scouts present as guests of the club were Leonard Storie, W. B. York and Fred Council.

Council and York are Watauga's first boys to achieve the rank of Eagle Scouts.

Lion Busted stated that there are 105 Lions clubs in North Carolina. Twelve of this number are honor clubs. The Boone club is one of those 12 honor clubs in the state.

## Red Cross Leaders Attend War Fund Meet

Rev. E. F. Troutman, chairman; Clyde R. Greene, war fund chairman; R. D. Hodges, Sr., disaster chairman; Mrs. W. M. Grubbs, executive secretary; Mrs. R. W. Watkins, publicity chairman; and Mrs. M. R. Maddux, volunteer special service chairman, will represent the Watauga county chapter, American Red Cross, at the disaster institute and war fund conference which will be held in Statesville on Jan. 19 and 20, Rev. Mr. Troutman announces.

Joining the local representatives, as well as representatives of 22 other chapters in this area, will be persons from the Southeastern Area office of the American Red Cross, Atlanta.

Regional Director F. P. Simerly, Atlanta, will lead the discussion on war fund planning and will be assisted by A. B. Murphy, assistant manager of the Southeastern Area, who has been associated with the Red Cross in various capacities for more than ten years, and the general field representative.

Charles L. Skarren, Jr., Red Cross field director, who went into France on De-plus-six, and later into Belgium and Germany with the infantry unit to which he was attached, will recite some of his experiences at the war fund planning session on the second day.