

# From Our Early Files

ITEMS FROM THE DEMOCRAT OF DECEMBER 13, 1906

W. T. Blair is giving his hotel building here a new coat of paint. Bud Pope, colored, of Blowing Rock, was placed in jail here Monday on a charge of retailing.

More houses to rent is one of our greatest needs. A man with capital could make big interest on the investment by building a block of cottages near the A.T.S.

A new charter will be applied for this metropolis during the next legislature, a new code of laws will be adopted, and we trust that after the spring election some good work will be executed by our town "daddies."

Dr. T. C. Blackburn left for the state of Missouri on Monday and

will be married to Miss Gertrude Farrar, of De Soto, that state, on next Thursday, the 20th. He was accompanied by his niece, Miss Cynthia Blackburn, as far as Johnson City.

It does really seem that the habit of totin' a gun has become prevalent to an alarming extent in this country. It is nothing unusual, right here in the village, to hear a volley of shots at the dead hours of night. We are told that shooting has been carried on after church services right in this community within the past week. A young man, or older one either, who would attend church with a gun on his hip, not only exhibits his cowardice and lack of good training, but deserves the most severe punishment at the hands of the law.

## Cove Creek High School News

### Athletics

Cove Creek has not been so successful with its basketball games this year owing to conditions beyond our control. Two games were scheduled for last week, one at Cove Creek with Riverview was called off because of dangerous conditions of roads, and one scheduled with Bethel Friday night was called off because there were no lights at Bethel.

Three games are scheduled for this week: Monday night at Lansing; Wednesday night at Cove Creek with Cranberry, and Friday night at Cove Creek with West Jefferson. Both boys' and girls' teams hope to play each schedule.

The December issue of the Waccovian is scheduled to be ready for distribution December 19. A varied table of contents suggests an interesting paper, and many of the illustrations will be in color, which fact also suggests an added attraction. The staff would like to recognize the outstanding work of two of its members, Ruby Nell Reece and Junior Potter, in making the color cuts possible.

Mid-term examinations are scheduled to be given Dec. 19 and 20.

### Carols Replace Heathen Songs

Carols, it is said, were early introduced by the clergy into England from Italy, probably soon after the Norman conquest, as a substitute for the Yule and Wassail songs of the heathen origin, which, until then, had been in use among the vulgar. Christmas carols were in dance measure at first. The word carol comes from "corolla," a ring, because the song was for a ring dance.

Nevada was once part of the territory of Utah.

## County Has Huge Job Ahead on Home Repair

More than \$452,000 is expected to be spent during the next five years by Watauga county home owners on remodeling and repair work.

The year 1946 promises to inaugurate one of the greatest areas in American history for home repair and modernization, according to estimates released by the Title Council of America. "Few developments will contribute more to employment and general prosperity in any community," according to R. E. Jordan, chairman of the council's residential construction committee.

Because of lack of materials and manpower during the war, majority of the county's 4,146 dwelling units are in need of some kind of repair or remodeling work. Kitchen improvements and modernization of bathrooms, installation of tiled showers and in some homes addition of a second bath top the nation's list of most wanted major improvements, Jordan said.

Outside paint jobs are needed on more than 50 percent of homes, and addition of rooms and construction of porches also rank high in remodeling plans, according to the report. New roofing and heating plants are required by many dwellings.

Home owners in North Carolina will spend an estimated \$89,870,000 and those of the nation more than \$5,500,000,000 for major repairs alone in the next five years, according to Jordan. Ample funds, at low interest charges, are available for such work through commercial banks, savings and loan associations, credit unions and mutual savings banks, he pointed out.

## Green Valley 4-H Club

The 4-H Club of Green Valley school met in Mr. Moretz's room Dec. 4. Because of sickness, the president was not able to attend, and the vice-president, Earlene Jackson, called the meeting to order. The secretary read the minutes of the previous meeting, following which the vice-president turned the meet-

ing over to Mrs. Hamby, who showed us how to make a Santa out of an orange, a wreath out of a coat hanger, and a candle holder out of a piece of wood.\*

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## GIRLS' RIDING BOOTS

Another shipment just in. Expecting another shipment of women's and children's Galoshes this week. We have men's Overshoes, men's OD Wool Shirts and pants, perfect condition some new; Army Chino Shirts and Pants, Army and Navy Wool Sweaters, Army Field Jackets and Rain Coats. New lot reconditioned John B. Stetson Hats, other good grades men's and boys' Hats and Caps; men's and boys' Suits, Odd Coats and Pants, women's and girls' Coats, Dresses Skirts, Blouses and Short Sport Coats . . . all of which make ideal gifts, and you will find that prices have been reduced on all these items.

## CLOSE-OUTS

- One lot men's Marine and Army Shoes, reduced to **\$2.00**
- All women's and growing girls' Oxfords and Slippers, including saddle Oxfords, reduced to **\$1.85**
- One lot women's and children's Oxfords and Slippers reduced to only **\$1.00**
- Reductions on men's and boys' Dress Shoes and Oxfords
- Good selection men's Boots, new soles and heels, reduced to **\$4.25**
- Lot women's Galoshes and Overshoes small sizes **50c**

## THE ECONOMY STORE

The House of Values and Satisfaction

## Letter to Santa Claus

Dear Santa: I want a wheelbarrow, little farm house and animals and dump truck. We will have you some cake ready because I know you will be cold and hungry after coming so far. Love, Larry Lawrence.

Dear Santa: I want a doll for Christmas, a doll table and a bed. I like you very much.—Coleen Triplett, Blowing Rock.

Dear Santa: Please bring me a basketball, a football, a baseball and a mitt. I would like to have a trailer truck and a bow and arrow. I want some candy, nuts and chewing gum too. I think I have been a very good boy.—Bradley Teague, Blowing Rock.

Dear Santa Claus: Will you please bring me a cap with ear muffs on it, and a new sweater? I'm nine years of age. I haven't a father at all. My little sister wants a coat. She is three years old. My brother wants a new sweater and some overshoes.—Helen Ellison, Blowing Rock.

Dear Santa Claus: Please bring me a doll chair for my doll, also I would like to have an iron and ironing board, a bag of candy nuts and oranges. Santa, please bring my baby brother some toys—Betty Mae Foster, Blowing Rock.

Dear Santa Claus: I want a doll and a doll bed for my doll. I want a box of bing too. I want a playhouse for my doll to play in. I want my birth stone. My birthday is in June.—Caroline Greene, Blowing Rock.

Dear Santa: I am nine years old. I am in the third grade. Will you please bring me a cap buster, a toy rifle for Christmas? I will leave you some cake and coffee as I always do.—Roger Hartley, Blowing Rock.

Dear Santa Claus: How are you this time of year? You have come to see me every year. Please bring me a doll and some candy, oranges and nuts. I am in the third grade.—Barbara White, Blowing Rock.

Dear Santa: Please bring me a wagon and tinker-toys, and some artics, too.—Billy Moody, Blowing Rock.

Dear Santa Claus: Please bring me a doll, some peanuts and a new dress, also a coloring book.—Genevieve Hodges, Blowing Rock.

## Date of Nativity Fixed

### By Roman Emperor

December 25 was decreed as the date of Christ's Nativity by the Roman Emperor Julian who began his reign as a Christian but reverted to paganism before his death in 363 A. D.

Julian based his decree on the opinions advanced by the fathers of the Western churches.

December 25 was, moreover, acceptable to most churches and peoples because the season of the winter solstice had always been celebrated as a festival period—Roman Saturnalia, Scandinavian Yule, the Mithrasian Feast of sol invictus, etc.

Some Eastern churches, however, consistently claimed January 6 as Christmas and have continued celebrating Christmas upon that date throughout the centuries.

## Mistletoe May Mean Messenger of God

Some say that the word mistletoe comes from the missel thrush, a messenger of the gods who brought the plant to the earth. Actually, the bird is very fond of the berries and is responsible for the wide distribution. Growing as it does, on trees as a parasite, it is showy because of its huge mass of dense light green foliage.

Its Latin name, Phoradendron, means tree-thief.

In Virgil, mistletoe was the golden bough, by the plucking of which Aeneas was enabled to descend into the underworld and return safely.

In ancient Britain it was the sacred plant of the Druids. The chief nature festival of these forest worshippers was around the oak tree with the most mistletoe on it. The Arch-Druid ascended the tree to the lowest bough on which the sacred mistletoe was growing. With a golden sickle he cropped the branch and allowed it to fall in a fold of his ample robes. The plant was so sacred that it must never touch the earth. The priest then broke the bough into many pieces and gave a twig to each of his followers with a prayer.

In the language of the flowers, mistletoe means "give me a kiss." This has its basis from a Scandinavian myth.



## Attention, Christmas Shoppers!

You will find a splendid assortment of gifts at our shop

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# Presents Perfect

from the CHRISTMAS STORE

Gift problems are unknown here—we have the perfect present for everyone on your list. Sparkling successes in apparel, accessories, notions—plus all those "just what I wanted" extras that make your Christmas selections ring the bell every time. Come polish off your list in one fell swoop—our Gift Guides are at your service.

## Belk-White Company