

KING STREET

...By...
Rob. Rivers

Thanksgiving... it originated way back, when a group of pioneers pushed back the New England frontier, fashioned cabins from the tall timbers of the forest, turned plots of soil, snatched from the giant firs, and saw the fruits of their labors reflected in storehouses of food. The Indians had to be killed, the wild beasts had to be stopped in their forays on small herds and flocks, the wild new country had to be subdued... to make room for a new concept of living, which included the right to worship, without interference, the God who had sent the rain, and the sunshine, and had brought forth the first harvest in a strange new land... The folks, so 'tis said were genuinely grateful... they found great joy in the material rewards which their labors and their sweat and their tears had brought forth... they gathered together on that first Thanksgiving Day, and humbled themselves in Thankfulness to their Supreme Benefactor, who had secured for them the first frontiers of a free land.

The custom of offering thanks on a particular Day at the time of the harvest, was maintained year after year, until Thanksgiving Day became a national event... Today however we rally forth to sports events, to hunting retreats, gather around festive boards, and dine and wine, but don't hear too much said about the spiritual side of the occasion... the meaning of the day, it would appear has been lost in the latter-day celebrations which occur whenever red shows on the calendar pad... In a world rent by suffering, misery, want and starvation, where the likenesses of the prince of Peace have been powdered beneath the iron heels of ruthless dictators... where human decency and normal happiness have become vague and gnawing memories... we alone, are basking in a land of bountiful food, raiment and shelter... living a life of relative ease... the like of which this world has never known. Whether it be Thanksgiving or Christmas, the fourth of July or Labor Day... we would do well to ease off the "gimme" supplications, which have become all too familiar in every circle or worship... and honestly and sincerely try to enter into a day by day spirit of Thankfulness, humility charity and gratitude... we've already been given pretty nearly everything!

Folks hereabouts are mighty sad about Tam Bowie having been called off... Superior court terms will not seem just the same without the gifted Ashe county lawyer being around. A man of exceptional ability, splendid academic accomplishments and with an indomitable spirit, the mountain barrister, banker, legislator and leader... winner in many a hard-fought battle... is being mourned over a wide area. His loyalty, courage and absolute sincerity of purpose were never brought into question by friend or foe... We wish he could have stayed!

Our national system of government, in spite of its known deficiencies, extravagances, and perhaps at times, inefficiencies, is about the best system there is—at any rate the folks have had more of everything, even at the worst, than have the peoples of any other nation... life liberty and the pursuit of happiness are taken for granted, but some times a main street, sort of wonders... The other day President Truman got together a special session of Congress to deal with twin emergencies... no serious question was ever raised as to his wisdom in calling the lawmakers together... he laid the momentous questions down in the collective laps of the governmental leaders soon as they assembled... and when the Presidential piece had been spoken Congressional leaders promptly announced it would be a full week before the matters would be considered... and it an emergency, for land's sake!

THIS AND THAT... Tobacco
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LOCAL FARM BOYS AT INTERNATIONAL SHOW



Four Watauga boys, the North Carolina State championship junior livestock judging team, who are in Chicago at the International Livestock show, which lasts to December 6. They are, left to right, Milton Moretz, Clint Reese, Elmo Moretz, Ben Norris and C. H. Kirkman, Jr., assistant Watauga county farm agent. At Chicago, the local stock judging group will compete against 24 other state championship teams. (Photo by Westbrook Photo Shop.)

750,000 Pounds Burley Now On Local Floors To Break All Records; Sales Begin Monday

Warehouseman



Mr. R. C. Coleman, operator of the three tobacco warehouses here, who is now on the job, and will personally manage the sales on all the floors.

RIGHTS ARE HELD FOR MRS. PAYNE

Well-Known Boone Resident Succumbs Thursday From Short Illness

Funeral services were conducted Saturday at 2 o'clock from the Cove Creek Baptist Church, for Mrs. Sallie Elvira Payne. The pastor, Rev. H. K. Middleton, was in charge, assisted by Rev. S. B. Moss, of the Boone Methodist Church, and burial was in the Mast family cemetery, in the same neighborhood. Mrs. Payne, died in the Baptist Hospital, Thursday. She had been ill for only a few days, and had been taken to Winston-Salem six days prior to her death. She was 65 years old. Mrs. Payne, who was the widow of the late Andrew J. Payne, of the Sherwood neighborhood, was born in Watauga county, a daughter of the late Noah Mast and Lucinda Adams Mast. Following the death of her husband several years ago, she had made her home with a son, Mr. Frank M. Payne of Boone. She was a devout member of the Baptist Church, a generous and kind neighbor, friend and counselor, and her death came as a distinct personal loss to her many friends in Boone and throughout the county. Mrs. Payne is survived by two sons, and two daughters: Will T. Payne, Sherwood; Frank M. Payne, Boone; Mrs. John H. O. Thomas, Boone, and Mrs. H. O. Dowling, Washington, D. C.

Favorable Grading Weather Spurs Movement of Weed to Mountain Burley Warehouses; Receipts Now Virtually Three Times as Heavy as Same Period Last Year; Million and Half Pounds Can Be Placed on Baskets Here at One Time; Full Set of Buyers for First Time

Three-quarters of a million pounds of burley tobacco are now on baskets on the floors of the Mountain Burley Warehouses and the Farmers Warehouse in Boone, to set an all-time record for receipts at this pre-season period. This is just about exactly three times as much as had been placed on the baskets four days prior to the opening of the auctions last year, and at press time the flow of the burley continues with increasing regularity, preparatory to the start of the auctions next Monday.

Thanksgiving To Be Observed Here

Practically all of the stores and other places of business in the city will be closed Thursday in observance of Thanksgiving Day. Likewise county and city offices, the postoffice, bank, county library, and perhaps other offices will remain closed through Thursday.

YULE SEALS GO ON SALE HERE

Christmas Stickers Will Yield Funds for Continuing Fight Against Disease

The forty-first annual Christmas Seal sale started in Watauga Monday, and Rev. James McKeown, chairman of the Watauga County Tuberculosis Association, has mailed out the stamps, and the following letter to hundreds of people, whose immediate response is asked in order that an effective fight against tuberculosis may be maintained: "You need no long letter telling of the effects of tuberculosis. I am satisfied that you are already in complete sympathy with the movement to erase it from our country. Therefore, we give you no long 'pep talk' about the great need for your help. "Besides the usual needs for money, the Watauga County Tuberculosis Association has six patients in the Sanitarium, whose expenses it is paying, and Dr. Robert King, Jr., our county health doctor, needs an X-ray machine very much. These two things are necessities, and not just things we would like to do if we got the money. "Please send in your \$2 for those 200 seals, and let the seals be seen on your packages and letters."

Recent damp weather, which brought about a rush of grading, contributed largely to the heavy receipts this week. The growers who have delivered their weed come from every section of the tri-state burley region, and news they bring would indicate that this year's market will witness the auction of more pounds of tobacco than in any year of the market's history. Mr. Roscoe Coleman will again personally manage the sales on both floors of the Mountain Burley Warehouse Corporation, as well as on the floor of his Farmers Burley Warehouse, and will be assisted by Miss Harriet Sykes, and Mr. R. C. Coleman, Jr. It is pointed out that with the three big warehouses a million and a half pounds can be placed on baskets at one time, and there will be no waiting to unload, day or night.

Full Set of Buyers Mr. Coleman states that Liggett & Myers Tobacco Company is sending a buyer this time, being the first year this firm has provided a regular buyer, and the first time the local market has attracted a complete set of company bidders. Others sending buyers again this year are: Reynolds, American, Austin, Jenkins and Piedmont.

Higher Floor Price The government support price this year, it is explained, has been raised to \$40.30 average, an advance of \$6.70 over a year ago. This is hailed as good news by the farmers of the region. The chant of the auctioneer will first be heard next Monday but the definite hour won't be announced until a conference of the buyers has been held. Mr. Coleman brings his usual staff to Boone again this year, highly trained men and women, who know the tobacco business from the viewpoint of the farmer as well as the buyer, and prompt, efficient and courteous service will be the watchword of his organization. Every convenience has been provided for the farmers, who may unload at either of the three houses, where they will receive a friendly greeting and painstaking treatment.

Santa Claus To Visit City As Shopping Season Opens; King Queen of Festival to Be Named

FARMERS ARE URGED TO VOTE ON AAA ISSUE

Community Committeemen to Be Named in Neighborhood Elections by Vote of Farm People; Schedule of Election Dates and Polling Places Given

A last minute call to all farmers in Watauga county to vote in farm program elections which have not yet been held was issued today by Ned Glenn, chairman of the county agricultural conservation association. At these elections community committeemen for each community will be elected, and also county delegates to the county convention will be chosen.

Dates and voting places for the remaining communities are as follows:

Bald Mountain, Dec. 2, Cook's store; North Fork, Dec. 2, Ellison's store; Stony Fork, Dec. 3, A. G. Miller's store; Elk, Dec. 3, Simmons' store; Blue Ridge, Dec. 4, M. O. Coffey's; Blowing Rock, Dec. 4, City Hall; Watauga 2, Dec. 5, Moore's store, Foscoe; Boone 3, Dec. 5, Smith's store.

According to Secretary of Agriculture, Clinton P. Anderson, "this approach, right down to the county and community level has proved itself the most effective organization yet devised for the administration of any national farm program. This country has never witnessed a finer demonstration of the processes of democracy in action than the committee system under the Agricultural Conservation Program."

The way to keep this organization strong and representative of farmers is for all eligible farmers to vote in the elections when they are held in their community, Mr. Glenn said.

Regional ACE Meet Set For December 6

The regional meeting of the Association for Childhood Education will meet at the Demonstration school December 6, according to Mrs. Ron Davis, regional chairman. Dr. Theo Dalton, Miss Eugenia Hunter and Miss Margaret Flintom of the Department of Education, Woman's College of the University of North Carolina are expected to take part in the meeting. Also expected for the occasion are members from the State Department of Education. This regional meeting includes primary and grammar grade teachers from Watauga and surrounding counties.

PARKING FEE SET BY MONTH

City Council Makes Provision to Park Vehicles on Monthly Basis for \$3.00

Some complaint has reached city hall to the effect that automobiles are being parked in the meter zone, when the meter shows red, and no tickets issued. Mayor Winkler explains that in these cases the driver has bought a ticket which entitles him to park for one month for \$3.00. A sticker affixed to the windshield of such vehicle indicates this arrangement. The Mayor states that any motorist may buy the monthly parking sticker on the payment of three dollars in advance. He says the parking ordinance is being strictly enforced, and warns that those who have failed to report when given tickets will be sent for, if they do not appear promptly. The execution of the laws is more important than the making of them. —Thomas Jefferson

Saturday Marks Opening of Shopping Season and Tobacco Festival; King and Queen of Festival to Be Crowned; Lights To Be On

The Boone Merchants Association and the Burley Tobacco Warehouses have virtually completed plans for the gigantic opening of the Christmas shopping season and the burley tobacco festival next Saturday, when Santa Claus will make his first official call, and when various forms of entertainment will contribute to the gaiety of the occasion.

Newspaper Is Complete Xmas Shopping Guide

The Democrat today takes the form of a complete and comprehensive Christmas shopping guide, as well as a tobacco warehouse promotional, and its columns will be found to contain just about all the merchandising information the early shopper would need. A number of worthwhile Christmas features had to be deferred in an effort to give the merchants the best possible coverage of their extensive holiday lines.

The publisher respectfully asks that the readers check the advertisements today carefully. They contain good news, and it is entirely possible to complete your gift list from these ads right in your own home, and be ready to gather in the merchandise quickly and efficiently when you arrive in town.

The merchants have made ample preparations to take care of the needs of the people quickly and completely, and the local newspaper joins with them in extending a warm welcome to the shoppers of the area.

OPEN HUNTING SEASON TODAY

Upland Game May Be Taken Thanksgiving; Trapping Starts December 1

The hunting season for small upland game will open November 27th, it is stated by Walter Edmisten, district game protector, who states that trapping for muskrat and mink along water courses is legal December 1. Dry land trapping in any form, either by steel trap or dead fall, is illegal.

The rabbit season ends January 31, and five may be taken in any one day, with a possession limit of 10.

Quail and ruffed grouse may likewise be shot until January 31. Daily bag limit for quail is 8 and season 150. Two grouse may be shot per day, with season limit of 10.

Trapping for mink and muskrat only is permitted from December 15 through February 15, in the water and along streams in cultivated portions traversed by said streams. Fur dealers are asked to secure proper license.

Mr. Edmisten states that all firearms used in the violation of the game laws, must be confiscated and sold upon conviction.

Unemployment Group To Receive Claims in Boone Each Friday

The unemployment compensation division of the employment security commission wishes to announce that beginning Friday, December 5, 1947 they will be in the courthouse at Boone each Friday for the purpose of taking claims. Persons wishing to file for unemployment compensation or unemployment readjustment allowance benefits should report between the hours of 10:00 a. m. and 1:00 p. m. Veterans wishing to file self-employed readjustment allowance claims should report between the hours of 2:00 p. m. and 4:00 p. m.

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King and Queen Christmas, as well as the King and Queen of the burley festival will be chosen from contestants from the high schools of Ashe, Avery and Watauga counties in North Carolina, and from Johnson county, Tenn., by a set of impartial judges, who know neither of the contestants, and are likewise unknown to them. The judging will take place at the Mountain Burley Warehouse in Boone at 1 o'clock, following a luncheon given for the contestants at 12 noon.

The King and Queen will ride upon floats in the Santa Claus parade which begins at 2 o'clock, and which will form on East King Street at the Blowing Rock Road and travel west to the court house with Santa Claus passing out gift packages to the children. The high school band will lead the parade with the Thomas and Farthing string band joining in a program of Christmas music. Later in the evening the Christmas lights will be turned on.

The Contestants Following are the names of those who have entered the contest for the King and Queen of Christmas and of the burley Festival:

Boone High School: Miss Mary Sue Miller, Deep Gap; Mr. Dixon Qualls, Boone.

Blowing Rock School: Miss Thelma Greene, Mr. Thos. Wright, Blowing Rock.

Bethel School: Miss Sue Hagan, Vilas; Mr. Ned Trivett, Reese.

Cove Creek School: Miss Katy Sue Farthing, Valle Crucis; Mr. Dexter Rominger, Valle Crucis.

Lights Being Installed Workmen on Monday began stringing the long ropes of evergreens on both sides of the street through the business section and installing the hundreds of colored lights which will be used in illuminating the city during the holidays. Merchants are engaged in exhibiting their Christmas merchandise and everything will be ready Saturday for the coming of Santa Claus and for the most spectacular Christmas opening in the town's history.

FARM BUREAU TALKS ROADS

Improved Farm to Market Roads, Better Rural Phone Service Sought

About twenty farmers, members of the board of directors and special committees of the Watauga Farm Bureau, met last Thursday evening, for a discussion of rural roads and telephone facilities.

H. E. Greene of Deep Gap is chairman of the roads committee, and the group will work with highway authorities in an effort to improve farm-to-market roads, particularly those which are used as school bus routes. The group will also advocate the expansion of telephone service in the rural areas.

It was voted to continue the Farm Bureau membership campaign to January 1. About 400 members have thus far joined the organization. Mr. George Farthing, Farm Bureau, field agent, spoke to the group.