

WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

An Independent Weekly Newspaper—Established in the Year 1888

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VOL. LX, NO. 23

BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1947

FIVE CENTS A COPY

KING STREET

...By...
Rob. Rivers

TEMPO OF THE TIMES
Farmers unloading crops of rich ripe burley at local warehouses from big trucks, pickups, family cars and plain jalopies... about a million pounds on the baskets when the auctioneer started the cadence of the unknown tongue... Buyers hurriedly fingering hands of burley snatched from down in the pile, indicating their bids with a nod, a wink or just a glance at the man producing the vocal arousments... the shaggy looking baskets of weed which look like scrap to the untrained eye, bringing the highest prices... the endless parade of the tobacco-laden vehicles... growers and their friends in town gathered in groups around warehouses, swapping the time of day... tobacco season is here, bringing with it a sort of carnival atmosphere, a heap of money, and a lot of pleasure to the folks who follow the sales and hear the bits of news and gossip.

Santa Claus came to town Saturday, passed out the packages to the youngsters, and did a good job in connection with the Christmas opening and tobacco festival... the first full dress holiday opening in the city since Hirohito slanted an eye in the direction of Pearl Harbor... record breaking crowds attending big event appreciating the efforts of the local merchants in providing the happy occasion... getting the usual thrill from the parade of the high school band... Thomas and Farthing's stringed renditions greatly enjoyed... Santa Claus receiving felicitations... did his job with his old-time vigor and cheerfulness... congratulating the Kings and Queens... getting that warm feeling when the Christmas lights were turned on... watching the weary throngs disperse at the end of a happy day.

Thanksgiving... the turkey, the dressing, the cranberries, the punkin pie—other traditional foods... thoughts of those with none taking some of edge from appetite... turkey don't appeal so much the next day... gobbler passes into the hash stage and holiday's over... Glaring error occurring in Democrat last week—copies which had been mailed couldn't be retrieved when typographical slip was noted... friend calls up with the raspberries... never passed a posse the million or so times things were done right.

Carl Teague, faithful city employee, in charge of garbage collections... equally adpt at plumbing, electrical repairs, farming pursuits or fixin a lawn mower, recovering from few days illness at local hospital... appreciative of professional services and receiving many attentions from friends about the town—all of whom he had favored at one time or another... Lee Teague, graciously tendering taxicab, without pay, for extended trip to bring comfort to sick man... Herman Wilcox enthusiastically arranging Chamber of Commerce meeting... rabbit hunters returning empty-handed and blaming the foxes... cotton tails in front yard, disturbed by glare of headlights... daddy's chum of four winters, trying to get the proper vocal slant on "feuding' fussin' and fightin'"... picking up unfrozen apple from hard frozen ground... trying to pet a furnace into warming house... giving up and laying a lot of green wood on fire dogs... getting warm right quick, in frontier style... most fireplaces never used except for ornamental purposes... at that contribute vastly to homelike atmosphere... recalling the old days when a man's usefulness to society was not measured by the size of the pressure group or groups he espoused.

THINGS WE LIKE... The folks who take time to say a cordial "thank you" as we hold open the postoffice door... pretty building, but hard to enter... the friendly "howdy" which is in a last ditch stand against the flippant "hello" the sincerity and appreciation.
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THRONGS AT CHRISTMAS PARTY, BURLEY FESTIVAL



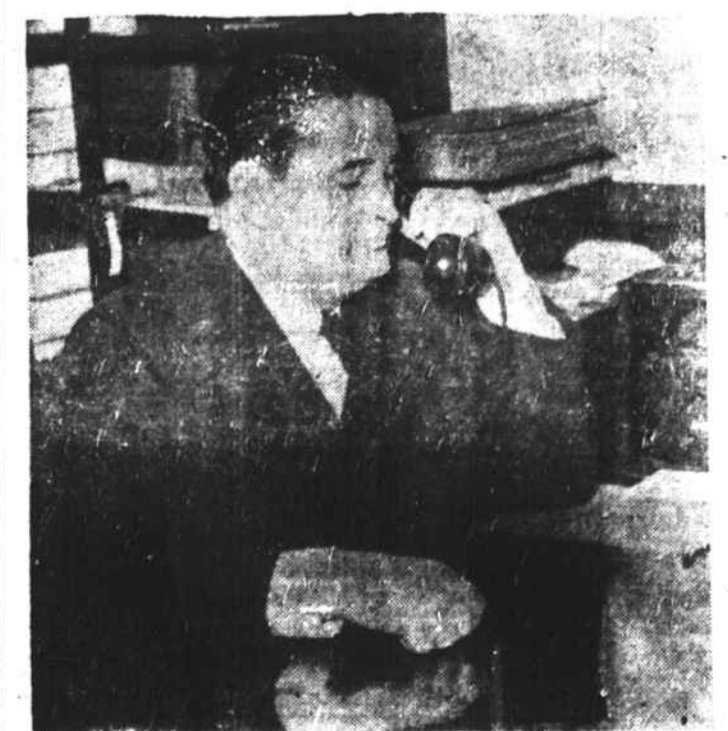
(Photo by Palmer Blair)

Pictured here is a relatively small section of the tremendous crowd which came to Boone last Saturday to witness the Christmas opening and burley, tobacco festival and parade. Santa Claus, dishing out gifts to the kiddies from the fire truck is shown with his back to the camera, while climbing on to the vehicle is Dwight Edmisten, chairman of the Merchants Association committee on arrangements for the event.

The big day in Boone featured a parade led by the high school band, banquet for the Kings and Queens of Christmas and of Burley, respectively, the initial appearance of Santa Claus with gifts for all the kiddies, and the official opening of the Christmas shopping season and the burley tobacco market.

The crowd which came to Boone was of enormous proportions, and numbers of merchants have been queried as to the size of the crowd, which Clyde R. Greene, veteran hardware merchant, believes is the largest assembled for any commercial event since the opening of the tobacco warehouse. Mr. Greene had occasion to attend a Christmas opening in a town more than fifty per cent larger than Boone the other day, and noted that the crowd there was no more than half of the Boone turnout.

HEADS HOLSTEIN-FRIESIAN GROUP



Barnard Dougherty, business manager of Appalachian State Teachers College, who was recently re-elected president of the North Carolina Holstein-Friesian Association, at the annual meeting held in Greensboro. Other officers of the association are F. L. Holcombe, Fayetteville, vice-president, and John W. Austin, Jr., High Point, secretary-treasurer.

committee on arrangements say the crowd exceeded their fondest expectations by at least one third, and conservative estimates place the number in town Saturday at three thousand. Other estimates, taking into account the large number of people not on the square, scattered all the way through town, believe there might have been five thousand. Anyway it was a big day.

The climax of the day, perhaps, was the crowning of the King and Queen of Christmas and of the burley festival, from among a group of high school entrants who were guests of the merchants for luncheon following the judging. The successful entrants who took part in the parade were: King and Queen of Christmas: Dorothy Pittman, Cranberry High School student, Frank, N. C.; Glenn Katron, Mountain City High School, Mountain City, Tenn.

King and Queen of the burley festival: Sue Hagan, Vilas, Bethel High School; Dixon Qualls, Boone, Appalachian High School.

Judges were C. B. Johnson, businessman of Elizabethton, Tenn.; W. O. Hampton, Roan Mountain, Tenn., farmer, and Larry Moore, lawyer, North Wilkesboro.

The Democrat regrets that a slip in photography prevented the publication of the sovereigns of the day.

Masons to Elect Officers Friday
There will be a meeting of Snow Lodge No. 363, A. F. & A. M., Friday evening at 7:30, at which time the principal business will be the election of new officers for the ensuing year.

QUALLS AGENCY EXTENDED

Mr. Ed Qualls of the Qualls Motor Co., states that he has been given the agency for the Kaiser-Frazer automobiles in Watauga and Avery counties, in addition to Ashe and Alleghany. Mr. Qualls also sells the Rototiller and other farm equipment in Watauga and Avery counties.

FALLS INTO CEMENT MIXER

Glendale, Calif.—While the machine was working, Robert G. Austin, 26, fell into a cement mixer, while feeding materials into it from a platform. His shouts brought help and he was removed with the aid of acetylene torches. Both of his legs were fractured and he suffered numerous lacerations and bruises.

Tennessee Leaders Here In Interest of Watauga River Road

ELIZABETHTON AND OTHER TOWNS SEND REPRESENTATIVES TO CHAMBER COMMERCE MEETING TO WORK OUT PLANS FOR BUILDING INTERSTATE ROAD; ADVANTAGES OF PROPOSED THOROUGHFARE ARE CITED

Chamber of Commerce officials, and other leaders of Elizabethton, Johnson City, and Roan Mountain, Tenn., will gather with the Boone Chamber of Commerce at a dinner to be held at the Skyline Cafe Thursday evening at 7 o'clock, in an effort to secure the construction of the road from Sugar Grove down the Watauga River and into Tennessee, a thoroughfare which is of paramount importance to the two states, as well as to the entire eastern seaboard, as a link in a direct route to the western states.

The Elizabethton delegation is being headed by Editor William Waddell of the Elizabethton Star, who with Mr. Herman Wilcox of the Boone Chamber of Commerce have been working on plans for influencing the North Carolina and Tennessee highway departments in the early construction of the interstate highway. Chamber of Commerce officials will be present.

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RITES HELD



PFC. RALPH M. BROWN

RALPH BROWN RITES HELD
Funeral services were conducted Tuesday of last week from the Baptist Church in Boone for Ralph M. Brown, 20, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Brown of Boone, who was killed in Germany during the last war, and whose body had just been returned from overseas. Rev. Robert Shores was in charge of the rites, assisted by Dr. W. G. Bond and Rev. E. F. Troutman, and the American Legion participated. Burial was in the national cemetery in Salisbury. Most business establishments of the town were closed during the hour of the funeral.

Pfc. Brown entered the army in May, 1943, going overseas in September, 1944. He was killed in Germany Feb. 23, 1945, while on duty with an infantry company. Surviving are the parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Brown, Boone; one sister and two brothers, Mrs. Guy M. Shirley, Boone; Max and Edmund, of the home.

Burley Mart Breaks Poundage Records As Prices Near Peak

XMAS BENEFIT FUND STARTED

Worthwhile Club Again Seeks to Provide Christmas Cheer for Needy Kiddies

The Worthwhile Woman's Club has opened its annual campaign to raise toys, food, new clothing and money for the annual Christmas charity fund, in an effort to prevent there being any empty stockings among the children of the needy on Christmas morning.

Miss Mabel Bingham will receive any cash donations at the office of the Watauga Building & Loan, and will take the names of all families reported as needing help at this time. Those wishing to donate canned food, and other items, may take the contributions to a room which has been provided upstairs in the Boone Drug Company building. The management of the Appalachian Theatre is making plans for a special show to collect toys. All children who present a good usable toy will be admitted free. A committee from the Boone Lions Club has agreed to deliver the Christmas boxes to the needy families during the Christmas season.

COOGE LOVILL IS BADLY HURT

Boone Man Severely Injured in Ohio While Kindling Fire With Kerosene

T. F. (Cooge) Lovill, of Boone, is critically ill in a Coshocton, Ohio, hospital, following severe burns received last week when kerosene, with which he was attempting to kindle a fire, ignited his clothing. The lower part of his body and particularly his legs were so badly burned that for a time it was believed amputation of at least one leg would be necessary. Late reports, however, indicate that this may not be necessary and that it now appears he might recover.

Mr. Lovill's father, Attorney W. R. Lovill, and Lee Teague went to Coshocton immediately when news of the accident reached Boone. Information gathered by them was to the effect that the injured man had little if any hopes of recovery. The more cheerful news reached Boone Monday.

Cooge, it is learned, was occupying quarters at a sawmill where he was employed, and was burned when some kind of oil

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Highest Prices Paid in Initial Sales for Three Years; Season's Receipts Shatter All Records at Over Million and Half Pounds; Farmers Jubilant Over Soaring Prices of Choice Leaf

Auction sales started on the floors of the Mountain Burley Warehouses here Monday morning, witnessing the greatest amount of tobacco on baskets in the nine-year history of the local market, and the sales on Monday and Tuesday closely approached the record average price established here three years ago.

The initial sales were held on the floors of burley warehouse No. 1, where the two days sales were virtually even in poundage, and Tuesday evening records indicated that 528,000 pounds had been sold from the more than a million and a quarter pounds on the floors when the auction started. The prices which were reaching for record highs and almost touched them, were highly satisfactory to the farmers and a tour through the house during the course of the sales, brought the information that the farmers are highly pleased with the prices received. No complaints have been heard from the growers, and the high prices received on the first basket have held right down to the last one sold.

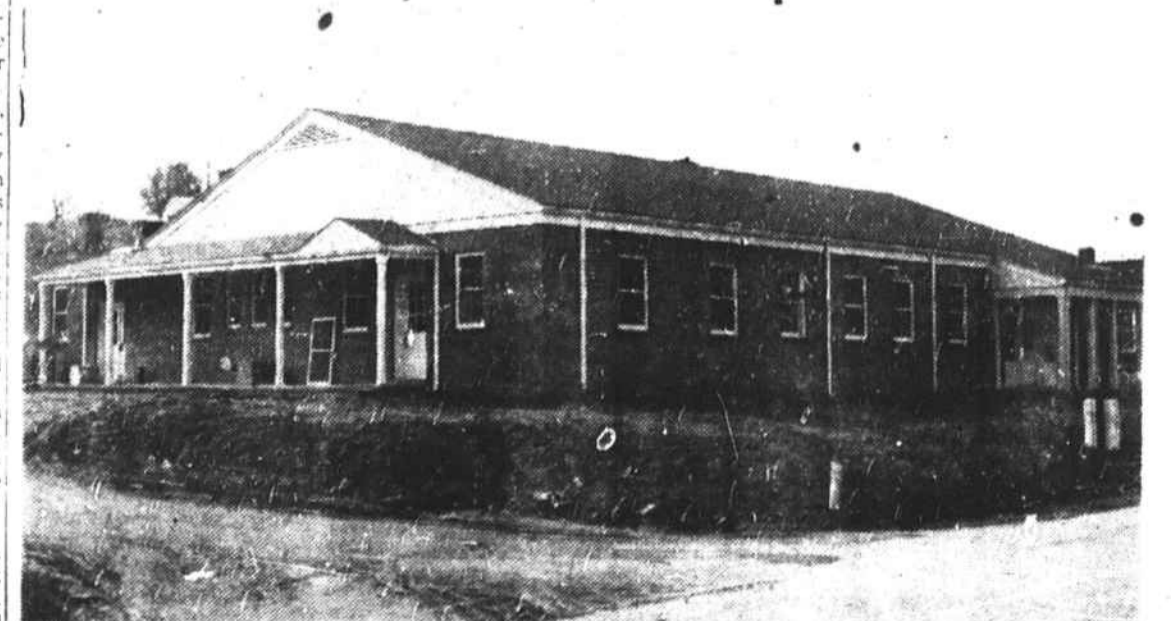
Scores of baskets all over the floor brought prices in the high fifties and 60 cent sales are by no means uncommon. The quality of the tobacco is good, and the demand accordingly brisk. Clear sunshiny weather, permitting buyers to accurately judge the leaf, is also said to have contributed to the outstandingly successful sales.

Record Receipts
More than twice the amount of tobacco received at the local market at a comparable period in any year of its existence is on the three floors at this time, enough in fact for about four days selling, an estimated quarter of a million pounds is on the trucks being unloaded Tuesday evening, and still there is plenty of room in the three big houses. Farmers have been able to unload without interruption at one of the three houses, and there has been no congestion, in spite of the record receipts. However only 1400 baskets are allowed to be sold in any one day.

The tobacco sold, that on the floors, and the estimates of that being unloaded Tuesday night, brought the season's receipts to date to 1,580,000 pounds.

Sales will continue through Friday, rotating between the

FREEZER PLANT NOW IN OPERATION



The new freezer locker plant, owned by Mr. Bill Dameron, is now in full operation, in the new building shown, and farmers and others are already bringing in their hogs, beef animals, and chickens, to be processed and quick frozen for use in the days and months to come. Three refrigerator rooms are provided, chill room of 36 to 38 degrees, and aging room of about the same temperature, and the quick freezing section, where temperatures of 12 degrees below zero, accompanied by a 30-mile an hour wind, quick freeze the meat for placing in one of the 510 individual locker boxes, which in turn are kept at zero.

Mr. L. T. Tatum, with years of experience in meat cutting, has at his disposal the latest power driven saws and other equipment for speedily cutting carcasses into the size pieces the particular family wants before it is put in the locker. Poultry is taken alive, but cattle and hogs must be butchered before they are brought to the plant.

A complete processing service is offered, and the enterprise, besides being Boone's newest, is unquestionably one of her most useful and valuable institutions. (Photo by Palmer Blair)