

### KING STREET

BY ROB RIVERS

AND IT CAME TO PASS in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed.

(And this taxing was first made when Cyronius was governor of Syria.)

And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, unto Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David:)

To be taxed with Mary, his espoused wife, being great with child.

And so it was, that while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered.

And she brought forth her first-born son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not, for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

And this shall be a sign unto you: Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth, peace, good will toward men.—St. Luke's Gospel, chapter two, verses one to four-teen.)

AGAIN THE LIGHT IN THE EAST GLEAM BRIGHTLY . . . Suddenly, high above, the star appears and we draw apart from the mouthings in the market place and the mad rush of things to kneel in wonder and to worship at the feet of the Babe of Bethlehem . . . This light . . . this unending star . . . is the symbol by which all men should chart their course. No other compass is needed to bring peace and happiness to the individual and to the world. Man is the only thing out of tune in the whole great universe . . . still for over nineteen hundred years the course has been clearly charted . . . Even so, the world progresses and it's Christmas A.D. nineteen hundred and forty-seven . . . May the joys of the holidays linger with you. May this light guide you, and may the peace and happiness it represents stay in your hearts through all the days of the coming year . . . Remembering all the pleasant associations along the way, we leave with you, this . . . a Christmas wish.

PERSONAL BUSINESS causes Willard Beach to douse the light on his linotype machine in the Democrat office, which he has kept burning for these many years, and to re-establish his residence in York, S. C. for the time being, at least . . . Willard, whom the late R. C. Rivers taught to set type by hand most forty years ago . . . and who later returned to the scenes of his apprenticeship to work for many years on the expanded and improved county journal, has been through about all the phases of newspaper work in his time . . . knows the work thoroughly, and has spent his ability and his effort in bountiful proportions in furthering the welfare of his home town paper . . . there will be other craftsmen come along . . . but we shall hardly expect the same degree of tireless energy and unflinching loyalty possessed by Willard Beach . . . we shall miss him.

ALONG THE AVENUE . . . (Continued on page 4)

### DEGREES ARE CONFERRED AT APPALACHIAN

Seventeen Graduates at Exercises Held Last Week; Dr. Barden in Graduating Address; List of Those Receiving B. S. Degrees

At graduating exercises held in the auditorium of Appalachian State Teachers college Wednesday evening, December 17, seventeen young people received their Bachelor of Science degrees in several fields of specialization. The speaker for the occasion was Dr. John G. Barden of the Department of Education of the college.

In speaking to the graduates, Dr. Barden asked the question, "What are you going to get out of life?" He told the students that their answer would depend upon five things: First, "know yourself. Know your capabilities and abilities and strive for the best that it is possible to become," he said. Second, "know your professions. Get a vision of the glorious possibilities of the teaching profession," he said, "and determine to teach for the love of teaching. You will be dealing with the most dynamic material to be found—human lives. Find within the profession on the place you can serve best. If your place does not exist, create it. Know its relation to the other professions and its connection with the community, the state and the world." Third, "know your community," he told the graduates. "Today, as never before, it is essential that the teacher know his community. He should be acquainted with the material and human resources and teach people how to use them wisely. Look for possibilities wherever they may be found." Fourth, "know your world. The world is growing smaller daily. It is also growing more complex politically, economically, racially and socially. What happens here affects other nations. We could not be political hermits even if we tried," he said. "Your concept of the world will be the background against which your profession will be reflected. Make it brilliant, make it promising." Fifth, "know the objectives for which you are striving. Examine each one carefully and make sure it is worth the effort." Dr. Barden ended his talk by saying, "Lead on, young graduates. Show us the way to better thinking, better teaching, better living."

President B. B. Dougherty conferred degrees upon the following: William Lynch Carpenter, Rutherfordton; John M. Fletcher, Chester, Pa.; Aubrey Fuller, Lexington, Ky.; Charles W. Hall, Iva, S. C.; Charles E. Harris, Chicago, Ill.; John Honbarrier, Granite Quarry; Laura Lee Huffines, Cameron; June Elbert Pratt, Pinnacle; Ben Cole, Forest City; Gozelle Andrews, Boomer; Grovone Howard Dry, Polkton; Dorothy June Dinkins, Yadkinville; J. D. Hamilton, Magnolia; Nancy Black, Matthews; Carolyn Townsend, Buie; Carol Erwin, Mt. Ulla; and Fuller Brooks Ga.

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### Parkway Plans To Be Pushed

Washington—The Park Commissions of North Carolina and Tennessee will meet jointly here January 22 to push plans for development of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Plans for the meeting were announced by Rep. Redden of North Carolina. He said both States were expected to send large delegations, headed by Governor Cherry and Governor McCord.

"This will be the climax of efforts of the States civic leaders moving toward a fully developed program for the parks," Redden said.

APT ADVICE Denver, Colo — Among the finished products displayed by a tombstone maker on a busy Denver street is one which reads: "We Can Wait—Drive Carefully."

### Still The Old Tale Endures



### Pine Cones Bought By Local Firm Would Encircle Globe Twice

Wilcox Drug Co., Boone, dealers in botanicals, who also feature Christmas decorations, have bought enough white pine cones in the last three weeks, that if the burs were placed end to end, they would encircle the earth twice.

The cones were bought from various collectors in North Carolina and eleven other southern states. When more storage space is available the concern plans to buy as many more cones. Some of the collectors, says Mr. Wilcox, have been able to make \$15 per day gathering the burs.

### HIT IN HOME BY HUNTER

Warren, Pa. — While sitting comfortably in her home, Miss Nellie Titus, 51, was struck in the shoulder by a stray bullet which penetrated the wall of her home. The bullet came from the gun of nearby deer hunters.

### Basketball Tourney at Lees-McRae College

Holiday basketball tournament sponsored by the Monogram Club of Lees-McRae College, is to be held at Lees-McRae from December 30 until January 3.

The gym at Lees-McRae is one of the finest in Western North Carolina. The best accommodations are made for spectators and refreshments of all kinds will be had.

Three trophies and 60 individual awards will be presented after the final game of the tournament.

Some of the best independent teams in Western North Carolina and Eastern Tennessee have entered and the fans are promised plenty of basketball thrills. Those entered are Millers Creek All-Stars, Spruce Pine's V. F. W., Butler All-Stars; Butler Whiz Kids, Newland All-Stars; Minneapolis Braves, Roan Mountain, West Jefferson, Blowing Rock, Minneapolis Blue Travelers, State Liners, Crossnore Foxes, and Avery County All-Stars.

### Democrat Issues Early This Week

The Democrat comes from the press Monday rather than on Wednesday afternoon this week, so that the good-will messages contained therein, may be current, and so that the publisher and his fellow workers may have an opportunity to enjoy a Christmas holiday period.

The office will be closed Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. The co-operation of the public is asked, since this is the only period in the year when business isn't carried on normally at The Democrat office—no other holidays are observed.

Due to the early date of this edition, the paper quite naturally isn't up to its usual standard of news coverage.

Authorities estimate that Michigan farmers lose \$250,000 annually from fires caused by spontaneous combustion of hay.

### Burley Mart Closes Pre-Christmas Sales With Auction Friday

### SPENCER IS SPEAKER AT GRID BANQUET

Frank Spencer, Winston-Salem Sports Writer, Speaks at Annual Football Banquet; Gene Wike Presides as Letters Are Given Varsity Men

The final touches were added to the 1947 Appalachian State Teachers college football season Tuesday night as Coach E. C. Duggins awarded letters to 25 varsity men during the annual football banquet held in the college cafeteria.

Gene Wike, ex-publicity director and toastmaster for the evening recognized the various guests and introduced the speaker, Frank Spencer, sports editor of the Winston-Salem Journal and Sentinel.

Spencer, long a loyal supporter of Appalachian athletic teams, was high in his praise of this year's Mountaineer aggregation, labeling them as one of the most underrated teams in the nation. He also commended Coach Duggins and his staff for upholding the tradition of excellent coaching at Appalachian.

Letters were awarded to the following men: Co-captains John Kirk and Marvin Hoffman (all-conference), Pete Mills, Walter Ragan, John Hollar (all-conference), Tom Murdock, Herman Bryson, Blois Grissom, Gene Lyons, Bill Halstead, John Caskey, Bill Dulin, Fuller Brooks, John Small, Preston Powers, Bill Long, J. C. Honeycutt (all-conference), Ralph Walters, Aubrey Fuller, Bill Underwood, Dub Akins, Tom Boyette, Charles Harris, Wick Alfred, Reece Shugart, Dennis Franklin and Verlin Hutchinson, the last-named two being manager and trainer respectively.

The Boone Quarterback Club's Most Valuable Player Trophy was given to Johnny Hollar after the awarding of letters, and John Caskey was announced winner of the Most Improved Player Award given by the Appalachian Theatre.

### Umstead Proposes Shipment of U. S. Tobacco to Germany

Washington—Senator Umstead (D-N.C.) proposed today that the United States send 100,000,000 pounds of tobacco to Germany "as a good investment."

This amount would assure that the German tobacco industry of continuous operations for at least twelve months, he said in a statement prepared for the Senate appropriations committee hearings on foreign aid.

"This tobacco should not be paid for out of funds requested by the army for maintenance of the German people. It should be considered over and above such requirements and based upon sound business procedure for this government because:

"1. It would dispose of a substantial part of the surplus tobacco now on hand .

"2. It would preserve a tremendous potential market for American tobacco and tobacco products.

"3. It would re-establish the tobacco industry in Germany and make some contribution toward its economic rehabilitation."

CONSCIENCE PAYS Manchester, Tenn. — A man "who got religion and was troubled by his conscience" recently sent Brown Partin, farmer, fifty cents in payment for a watermelon stolen from him 16 years ago.

### Three and a Half Million Pounds Sold to Better Last Season's Poundage by Half Million Pounds; Receipts Continue as Sales Are Suspended for Holidays

The last auction of the pre-Christmas burley tobacco season was held Friday, and records of the Mountain Burley Warehouse Corporation, indicate that three and a half million pounds of tobacco have been sold thus far this season, to better the record of the Boone market of a year ago, by nearly a half million pounds.

Sales will be resumed on the floors of Mountain Burley house No. 1 Monday January 5, it is announced by Roscoe Coleman, and meantime tobacco is being received daily for the post-Christmas auctions. Tobacco may be placed on the baskets right on through the holidays, and it is announced that the floors will be filled at No. 1 warehouse first, then the Farmers and then No. 2. Farmers are asked to continue to bring their crops in during the holidays.

The consensus of opinion among warehousemen and staffs, buyers and others, is that the first week of the January sales will be a good time to sell, since the company's storage rooms will be empty by that time, and there is strong hope of a general improvement in the foreign trade situation as regards burley tobacco. Anyway, the boys in the know are looking for some good sales, come the new year.

### Stores To Be Closed On Thursday, Friday

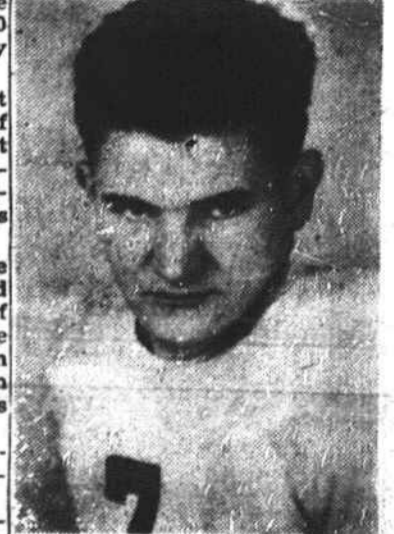
The majority of the stores of Boone will be closed both Thursday and Friday in observance of Christmas, it is announced by Mrs. Ruby Ellis, secretary of the Merchants Association.

### RIPE WATERMELON FOR YULE DINNER

Atlanta, Ga.—A ripe watermelon, picked from the vine about the first of October and carefully tended in a darkened cabinet at 74-degrees temperature, was recently forwarded to Governor James L. McConaughy, of Connecticut, by plane. Frank Holloway grew the 30-pound melon on his farm, wrapped it in a towel and turned it once a week in the cabinet. The Connecticut governor will have the melon for his Christmas dinner dessert.

He that can have patience can have what he will. —Benjamin Franklin

### In Bowl Contest



Pete Storie, Appalachian High School senior, and son of Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Storie of Boone, who was chosen from Watauga county to play in the Optimist Bowl football contest in Asheville on the 13th. Mr. Storie, who has played outstanding football here for three years, played every minute of the bowl game, and won a gold medal in the form of a football charm. He played on the Eastern Carolina squad against the western group, and the game resulted in a scoreless tie.

Christmas 1947

EVERY Christmas season brings to us the recurring knowledge that mankind need not be destined for sorrow, dejection and strife. The spirit of Christmas captures us with its glory and teaches us that a lasting peace on earth is our biggest goal.

If you will permit the publisher of this newspaper one wish at this Christmas time, let it be this: That the spirit of the Christmas star may be our perpetual guide and that we may meet our fellowmen on the level of peace, trust and friendship. Not just until December 26, but for the rest of the year—for the rest of our lives.

It is in that spirit that this newspaper extends to all of you its hope for a truly

MERRY CHRISTMAS