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WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

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IMPORTANT

The date on your address label shows the date your subscription will expire, and the date your paper will be stopped unless sooner renewed. The Democrat is operating strictly on a cash in advance basis.

KING STREET

BY ROB RIVERS

SLIGHT SNOWFALL covered the landscape Christmas morning . . . just enough to make the kiddies hopeful, while several inches fell in the vicinity of Charlotte . . . eleven cars go off highway on 421 west during the morning . . . motorists buy up all the available tire chains . . . in an hour they didn't need 'em . . . business section deserted Thursday folks stay by own firesides in quiet observance of the holy day.

FIRECRACKERS not nearly so prevalent as formerly . . . folks could actually go to sleep most any time. Had wondered why folks in the South burned the powder on Christmas. They don't do it in other sections. State magazine says in the olden days the people in sparsely settled regions, shot off their muskets Christmas morning to wish their neighbors across the hill a happy day . . . neighbors answered the greeting . . . and pretty soon the hills resounded as if the battle of Manassas was on rehearsal.

THE GAY WRAPPINGS have been gathered up, bits of ribbon and colored string, tags and stickers without number, have been brushed away as the domestic scene takes on a degree of normalcy . . . colored lights and gay Christmas tree look tired and out of place the day following . . . like the row of "dead soldiers" the morning after . . . hemlocks, pines and cedars awaiting the garbage collector, bits of decorations still clinging to their withered branches . . . children weary of gifts as other days come . . . oldsters snap back into the groove of serious living.

MERCHANTS busily engaged in taking inventories of stocks, and reporting dollar sales far ahead of those last year . . . but not necessarily the number of individual transactions . . . prices are higher . . . accumulation of work following holiday vacation makes one wonder if the respite was worth it in the long run . . . children eagerly turning back to school . . . bills taking the place of greeting cards in the mailbox . . . talking with other business men about Christmas and finding that most of all us stayed right at home.

NEW YEAR'S DAY, in many parts of the world a gayer event than Christmas and which is widely celebrated in the east and western parts of the United States, brings little merriment to the folks hereabouts, already weary, many of them, with the activities of Christmas week . . . Numbers of merchants use Democrat, however, to extend the greetings of the season, but New Year's eve parties on any general scale are not held here as of yore . . . Most folks about as busy looking back over the past year as they are in getting a bead on the new . . . economists try to tell what's going to happen . . . political seers calculate what will or will not happen in the election if Henry doesn't run . . . Another brand new year is here, bringing with it a definite challenge to every individual and business firm . . . To many 1948 is another opportunity for service to one's family, community and fellow-man . . . to others it carries no other meaning than twelve months in which to work . . . others live only for the election. The following lines from the pen of Horatio Nelson Powers is apropos:

A flower unblown, a book unread;
A tree with fruit unharvested;
A path untrod, a house whose rooms
Lack yet the heart's divine perfume;
A landscape whose wide border lies
In silent shade 'neath silent skies;
A wondrous fountain yet unsealed;
A casket with its gifts concealed—
This is the year that for you waits
Beyond tomorrow's mystic gates.

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THE difference between 1947 and 1948 can be measured in the imperceptible tick of a clock, in the clasp of a hand or in a chorus of Auld Lang Syne. It is the sum of the past, gathered in a moment, and perhaps a swift vision of the future.

When the New Year pauses on that pinnacle of time to draw its first breath, the distance which separates our dreams from their fulfillment appears to be but a short step. Yet, in the same instant, we glance back at the past lying across a gulf too wide for crossing. We find ourselves on a pivot of eternity.

The real significance of the New Year lies in the fact that it marks a rebirth of the will to achieve, and of ambition and hope over the world and among the world's peoples.

We dedicate that renewal of strength to all of you, as we, the publishers, wish you a most sincere

HAPPY NEW YEAR

No Depression in 1948, Says Babson In New Year Forecast

1948 IN A NUTSHELL
BUSINESS: Watch out after November 2, 1948.
COMMODITIES: Wholesale price peak in sight.
TAXES: Personal income taxes will be somewhat lower.
LABOR: Wagerworkers to use Taft-Hartley Bill as check on labor leaders.
REAL ESTATE: Increased suburban building.
POLITICS: Election year propaganda.
STOCKS: A year for switching.
BONDS: Low-coupon rate.

By **ROGER W. BABSON**. Long-term bonds will be lower. 1. 1948 will be, more or less, of a duplicate of 1947. Certainly there will be no "depression" as so many pessimists are talking about, but fundamental conditions will become increasingly less favorable. Watch out after November 2, 1948.

General Business
2. The above paragraph applies mostly to gross business. Certain industries will show smaller net profits. This means that, in some cases, dividends may be less in 1948. Remember some things may be allocated or rationed again in 1948.

3. The reconversion from war to peace has been entirely completed; war surpluses are pretty well disposed of; and 1948 will even show a resumption of military purchases.

4. Inventories, quoted both at their price values and their volumes, will increase during 1948. Both raw material piles and manufactured goods will be in greater supply during 1948.

Commodity Prices
5. Notwithstanding the above paragraph, some allocations or priorities may be reinstated in 1948. The public is sick of high prices and will make demands for some price controls in the case of certain products in short supply.

6. The retail price of some goods, other than food products, will be higher during 1948 as the final turn has not yet been reached for all types of goods.

7. We expect to see the peak in wholesale commodity prices sometime during 1948. We, therefore, advise going easy on inventories, especially on borrowed money.

8. Retail price changes will lag after wholesale price changes. This explains why we expect retail prices on good quality merchandise to hold up for awhile after wholesale prices begin to decline. But 1948 will be a year of war preparations.

Farm Outlook
9. The total farm income for 1948 should approximately equal that of 1947; but we forecast lower prices for wheat, corn, and certain other products. Farmers

WINS FAME



Sgt. Paul Siegel, Brooklyn, N. Y., a member of the U. S. occupation forces in Vienna, Austria, who has won fame as the composer of both light and serious music. His latest symphony, "Between Two Worlds" had its world premiere and was well received in Vienna, home of music.

should certainly diversify more in 1948, get out of debt, put money into improvements, and prepare for real trouble someday.

10. The supply of certain vegetables, fruits, and fish products should increase during 1948 and the price of these should fall off barring some weather, insect, or blight catastrophes.

11. Meat will be in shorter supply in 1948 than in 1947. Should the current propaganda to "eat less and have a better figure" gain popularity, upward pressure on meat prices would be greatly reduced.

12. Farmers will try to get both 1948 Presidential candidates to promise further subsidies.

The above four farm forecasts assume normal weather which we do not attempt to predict.

Lower Taxes
13. The Federal debt will be decreased during 1948.

14. No personal taxes will be increased during 1948 and there will be some reductions, perhaps 5 to 10% in the upper brackets and the entire elimination of those in the lowest bracket.

15. We forecast that the new tax bill will enable a man to share his income tax equally with his wife without sharing his income or property.

16. The 25% tax limit on long-

term gains will remain unchanged.

Retail Sales
17. Goods on counters will be of better grade in 1948, even if retail prices hold up.

18. There will be many "mark-down sales" of goods of inferior quality and curbs on installment buying may return.

19. The dollar value of all retail sales in 1948 should at least equal 1947.

20. The unit value of retail sales will be less in 1948 than in 1947; there will be fewer customer purchases in most stores, although each customer may visit more stores to "shop around."

Foreign Trade
21. Our foreign trade will be less in 1948 than in 1947. We shall help Europe; but it will be on a more economical and efficient scale.

22. More foreign loans will be made during 1948; but many of these will be direct to business concerns rather than to political governments.

23. There will be considerable competition from other countries in legitimate foreign trade where the credit is good. Other countries will not compete with us in our "charities"; but they certainly will compete for all profitable business.

24. Throughout 1948 war talk and uprisings will continue; but no World War III will start in 1948. War preparations will accelerate.

Labor Outlook
25. 1948 will see an average hourly wage rise of 5 to 7%. Lower income taxes should increase buying power, but this will be about offset by further rises in the cost of living.

26. There need be no more unemployment in 1948 than in 1947; but "Unemployment Insurance" will be taken advantage of by too many unprincipled people.

27. Wagerworkers will gradually see that the Taft-Hartley Bill puts a checkrein only on their labor leaders, but not on Union membership. Hence, the bitter hatred against this bill will gradually subside. The bill is merely an "SEC" for labor leaders who need it today as much as investment bankers needed the SEC which was started ten years ago.

28. Any labor legislation during 1948 will be to amend the Taft-Hartley Bill and to raise minimum wages.

Inflation
The inflation era which we have forecast for several years will remain at this stage until November 2, 1948. There will be no reckless printing of currency or government borrowing in 1948.

30. 1948 will see a public reaction

(Continued on page 8)

TO MAP PLANS AT DINNER FOR MARCH DIMES

Chairman Agle Arranges Dinner Party to Inaugurate Campaign for Funds With Which to Fight Infantile Paralysis; Starts January 15

The annual March of Dimes, spearhead of the fight against infantile paralysis, will be held throughout the nation January 15 to 30, it was announced here today by Mr. R. E. Agle, 1948 March of Dimes chairman for Watauga county.

The cost of fighting polio has skyrocketed," Mr. Agle said, in pointing out that rising prices and mounting polio incidence have placed a tremendous burden on the resources of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, which this year celebrates the tenth anniversary of its founding by Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Mr. Agle's March of Dimes committee is setting up the machinery that will make the 1948 appeal a record demonstration of this area's active interest in helping the stricken children of America along the road to health. A special events committee, headed by Howard Cottrell is arranging to make the two weeks of the fund-raising drive an entertaining and instructive lesson in public-spirited citizenship.

Mr. Agle has appointed the committee for Boone and Watauga to help him in his fight against polio, the crippling disease. Mr. James Farthing, Northwestern Bank, will serve as treasurer. Mrs. Gary Cox, will have charge of mailing; Mrs. Milton Greer, the county building and special gifts; Mrs. Francis Teams Greene, tag day; A. E. Hamby, advertising materials; Rev. Sam Moss, public relations; Mrs. Bert Ellis, publicity; Howard Cottrell, dances and sports events; Dr. Robert King, schools and churches; Gill Phillips, coin collector; W. W. Chester, Grady Tugman and R. D. Hodges, Jr., business houses gifts; Miss Ellen Coffey, Blowing Rock; W. C. Leach, Valle Crucis; Roger Whitener, Appalachian State Teachers College.

Mr. Agle is having a dinner meeting Thursday, January 1, at 7 p. m. at the Daniel Boone Hotel, to discuss plans for this important fight.

XMAS IS QUIET EVENT IN CITY

Populace Content With Release From Usual Duties; Sales Were at High Levels.

Christmas week passed off unusually quietly in the community, much of the quietude being due perhaps to the newly-enacted law banning the possession and use of firecrackers in the State. At any rate most folks stayed right at home, there was little visiting and relatively few to fall in the hands of the law during the holidays.

Merchants, other businessmen, and their staffs, took from two days up to a week, away from their daily tasks, and felt satisfied with the respite from the daily grind.

A survey of the business district reveals heavy trading during the last of the shopping season, with dollar totals running well ahead of 1946. Total receipts, in many instances, however, were revealed to have come from considerably fewer transactions.

Theatre at Weldon, Burns, Owned by Sams

The Levon Theatre, Weldon, N. C., owned by the Sams enterprises, who also own the Boone show houses, was completely destroyed by fire Friday. No estimate was forthcoming on the loss of the theatre, which had only recently been acquired by Mr. Sams.

Two firemen were reported as being killed, during the conflagration, as a wall to the doomed building toppled.

The value of wheat is almost entirely dependent upon its milling and baking quality, which can be determined accurately only through milling and baking tests.

G. O. P. LEADERS



Joseph W. Martin, Jr. (R. Mass.) speaker of the house, and Charles A. Halleck, (R. Ind.) leader of the house, as they visited with President Truman on inflation and kindred matters.

BARTER GROUP TO PLAY HERE

Shakespearean Play to be Staged By Famous Players At College Monday

On January 5 Appalachian State Teachers college will see the nationally famous Barter Players of the State Theatre of Virginia present Shakespeare's well-known comedy, "Twelfth Night." The play will be given by one of the three repertory companies of the theatre which will tour every state in the Union this season.

Information says that this is the first time in the history of Boone that a full-cast performance of Shakespeare has been presented here, and an overflow audience is expected to attend.

Taking the leads in the performance will be Ray Boyle as Orsino and Gerry Jedd as Maria. These two young people were selected for Barter by Miss Helen Hayes, the winner of the 1947 Barter Award. Boyle has performed at the Pittsburgh Playhouse, the Woodstock Playhouse, the Kilbuck Players and the Cherry Lane Theatre in New York. Miss Jedd was a dramatic school classmate of Ray Boyle and they were in stock together.

The Barter Theatre began more than fifteen years ago, and has progressed under the directorship of its founder, Robert Porterfield, to its present place as the only state-subsidized theatre in the United States. Among its famous sons and daughters are such personalities as Gregory Peck, Hume Cronyn, Jeffrey Lynn, Patricia Neal and Katharine Raft.

Last year Barter played 353 engagements and trouped approximately 25,000 miles in nine states. This season is its most ambitious effort to bring the theatre to the people. Three companies will troupe every state in the Union to introduce the idea of decentralized theatre to the country at large, in the hope that other states will follow Virginia's example.

The curtain on the performance at Appalachian will go up promptly at eight o'clock on the evening of January 5.

Funeral Held Sunday For T. M. Watson, 73

Lenoir, N. C., Dec. 29.—Gravestone rites for Thomas M. Watson, 73, of Lenoir Route 3, who died at his home this morning, were held at the Watson cemetery in Deep Gap, Watauga county. Officiating at the services was the Rev. Marshall Watson of Boone, and Rev. Roscoe Greene of Deep Gap.

Mr. Watson was born in Watauga county in December 1874, the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Allen Watson.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Flora Watson, two daughters, Mrs. Snow Shirley and Mrs. Lona Messick, and three sons, Wilson, Glen and Dudley Watson of Deep Gap, twenty grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

BURLEY SALES TO BE RESUMED HERE MONDAY

Tobacco Receipts Grow Heavier as Christmas Holidays Are Ended; Weed is Drawn From Wide Area to Floors Of Local Warehouses.

The first auctions for the post-holiday season will be held on the floors of Mountain Burley Warehouse no. 1 next Monday morning and word from the warehousemen is to the effect that the high prices reached during the earlier period of the sales on the local market will be sustained as the market goes into its final round of sales.

Receipts of tobacco, as usual, were relatively low during Christmas week, but are rapidly picking up, now that the holidays are over. It is anticipated that full sales will occur next week, with continued heavy flows of weed to the market.

It is pointed out that there is always plenty of room to unload on one of the three big floors of the Boone market. Tobacco may be placed on the baskets at any time, and can be promptly sold or the high dollar.

It is said that considerably more than half the tobacco in the belt has been sold, but that many fine crops remain, and the local market expects to approach the six million pound mark when the final sales are held.

The pre-Christmas sales drew tobacco from more sections than ever before, it is pointed out. In North Carolina, loads came from the following counties: Watauga, Ashe, Alleghany, Avery, Mitchell, Yancey, Madison, Buncombe, Rutherford, Caldwell and Wilkes. Quantities of burley came from four counties in Virginia and four in Tennessee, while one load was weighed in from the vicinity of Charleston, W. Va.

TAX LISTING TO START FIRST

Real and Personal Property Must Be Account'd For As Of Ownership January 1.

Listing of real and personal property for taxation starts on January 1, and Paul A. Coffey, county Tax Supervisor, publishes in this edition of the Democrat, the names of the various list takers together with the schedules they have arranged.

Mr. Coffey points out that this year the Crop Reporting Service cites the new law which requires farmers to not only list a census of their crops and stock during the year 1947, but to make estimates of their anticipated production during 1948.

The tax official also asks that the people from the various townships, should see their own list takers and refrain from appearing at the courthouse. Each lister has the needed records, and his work can't be handled at the tax office. The full cooperation of the people will be appreciated.

Democrat Offers Two Outstanding Features

The Democrat is offering its readers two outstanding and timely features today, "The Chronology of the Year 1947," and Roger Babson's annual forecast of things to come in the world of business, finance and politics.

The chronology lists all the happenings of note during the old year, and is invaluable as a scrap book piece for future reference. Roger Babson, the nation's leading statistician, and an economist of recognized ability, has the capacity for giving a fairly dependable forecast of conditions in the following year. This feature is bought by the Democrat, so that its readers may have the Babson viewpoint just as quickly as it may be secured from the metropolitan press.

SICK MAN BAGS DEER
Valencia, Pa.—William Fum, 58, is a confirmed deer hunter who isn't going to let a little thing like illness keep him from bagging a deer. Preparing for a trip to the hospital, Fum sighted a buck from his back porch. Rushing into the house to get his gun he took one shot and felled the deer. Then he went back to his packing for the hospital trip.