

WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

An Independent Weekly Newspaper—Established in the Year 1888

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VOL. LX, NO. 30.

BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 1948.

FIVE CENTS A COPY

KING STREET

BY ROB RIVERS

BOB AGLE going down the line in an effort to get the most possible money for the March of Dimes fund—used to make war on infantile paralysis, the grim crippler and destroyer of children... initial response to worthy appeal gratifying... school children about the town Saturday, taking up quantities of coins for those who have been or may be stricken down... Somehow seems so appropriate for these gay happy children to be engaged in helping out other kiddies who got the tough break... and, it's possible that some of the dimes they so eagerly chased, may be used to try to restore their own helpless limbs behind the future's closely locked doors.

THE MARCH OF DIMES is a mighty fine thing... Conceived in the mind of America's most beneficent statesman, the campaign has come to be something of a national institution... likely always will be... and some day will bear fruit in the form of a definite preventative for polio... It's one of the few remaining campaigns that we shall always support... Most of the others to which we have given lucre and lip-service in the past, have been marked off our list... payments to them will in the future be out of deference to whichever of our local friends is campaigning... sort of token contributions.

THREE MEAT CAMP YOUTHS lose lives in crash of automobile... deepest sympathy to the fond parents who have been visited with so great a calamity... A gory reminder of the lethal dangers that lurk along every mile of the pavement in the age of speed... The triple tragedy has brought gloom to the folks hereabouts.

MERCURY slips down the Fahrenheit tube till it touches zero degree, bringing a stinging taste of old time winter... everybody talking about it, as Mark Twain allowed, but doing little to change the situation... Reflecting on the plight of lots of folks who have inadequate structural protection from the withering blasts, think of Pink Baldwin, our old friend of the tall tales, who had a speaking acquaintance with Adam and Eve, he said, and members of all intervening generations... He had sailed the seas with Christopher Columbus, had conspired with George Washington, on the broad porches at Mount Vernon, and held the hand of the first President when the heart of the Father of Our Country became quiet.

YES, Pink was right gifted along historical lines, and we used to discuss the weather with him... He had always seen worse spells... The first winter he spent on this continent after he helped discover it... she was a whizzer... and the freeze up during the Valley Forge period was something. Pink was living in a cabin on the North Slope of Howard's Knob, when the mercury was fixing to lodge against the bottom. A full-grown Tom cat could have been thrown through some of the openings in the walls... an open fireplace gave some heat, but there was a scarcity of wood due to the depth of the snow... bed clothing was inadequate, food was kind of scarce, and we had been wondering just how Pink, the members of his family... and his stock (three or four emaciated old donkeys he kept... never knew why) were going to stand the impending gale, when in walked Pink.

THE GRIZZLED PATRIARCH stalked in the old Democrat office... didn't have anything to say... ambled over to the red-hot, pot-bellied stove, warmed his calloused hands a spell, while melting ice dripped from his whiskers... unbuttoned his ancient Jim-swing coat, which hung in tatters at its tails, exposing a conglomeration of undergarments, one atop the other, so some of the holes missed, propped himself on his crooked cane. (Continued on page 8)

WHEAT KING



To Curwen Leaming, Romney, Ind. went the honors of being "Wheat King" and winning the seventh annual Philip W. Pillsbury state wheat award for his achievement at the Indiana corn and small grain show held at Lafayette.

ABRAMS PLANS N. Y. PARADE

Former Boone Educator Will Work Out State's Parade At Lions' Convention.

Raleigh, Jan. 17—plans for a North Carolina parade and exhibit in connection with the convention of Lions International in New York City next July were laid here yesterday at the meeting of the club leaders from all parts of North Carolina.

Dr. W. Amos Abrams, of Raleigh, international councillor and former district governor of Western Lions district 31-A, is the chairman of the parade and exhibit committee, whose membership embraces all three of the Tar Heels Lions Districts. Tentative plans for the project, according to Abrams, call for a North Carolina band and float in the big parade of Lions International at New York next July. Abrams said that the Elizabeth City High School band would likely represent the State in the procession.

In addition to the parade, the project includes a North Carolina exhibit slated to be set up in Madison Square Garden at which the State's agriculture, industry, natural and cultural resources will be displayed. The project is being sponsored by the State's 200-odd Lions Club organizations, Abrams said.

Vaughn H. Howell Dies In Virginia

Vaughn Hagaman Howell, 35 years old, native of Todd, died on January 15, at Culpeper, Va. A heart attack is given as the immediate cause of his demise. Funeral services were conducted from the South Fork Baptist Church in the old home neighborhood by Rev. Raymond Hendrix and Rev. Ernest Stephens, and burial was in the Howell cemetery.

Mr. Howell was born in the Todd neighborhood, a son of the late W. N. and Mrs. Howell. He was a member of the Pilot Mountain Baptist Church, and served on the Board of Deacons until he moved to Virginia.

The widow and three children survive: Frank, Rena Mae and Wanda Lee Howell. The mother and six brothers also survive.

ARTIFICIAL BREEDING SERVICE TO BECOME AVAILABLE HERE

Asheville, N. C.—The Southeastern Artificial Breeding Association, a new project sponsored by the Farmers Federation with the cooperation of the extension service of the North Carolina department of agriculture, has begun operations here it was announced yesterday by James G. K. McClure, president of the federation.

The project, which is predicted to double the milk production of the average Western North Carolina cow within the next ten years, is housed in a huge barn on the Asheville-Charlotte highway, just beyond the American Legion golf course. A battery of 25 high-indeed proven sires, representing registered Holsteins, Jerseys and Guernseys are now situated in the barn and activities

MORE FUNDS SOUGHT FOR STATE PARKS

W. R. Winkler in Washington As Guest of Governors As His Commission Makes Plea For More Funds for National Parks in Carolina.

W. R. Winkler, member of the North Carolina Park, Parkway, and Forest Development Commission, is in Washington, D. C., where today he attends the regular monthly meeting of the Commission, and on Thursday evening a dinner at the Mayflower Hotel, where the members of his group will be guests of Governor Gregg Cherry, of North Carolina and Governor Jim McCord of Tennessee. At this time plans are to be made for the further development of the Smoky Mountains National Park.

The banquet will be attended by the complete Congressional delegations from both North Carolina and Tennessee, the Secretary of the Interior, Director of the National Park Service, members of the Tennessee Department of Conservation; members of congressional appropriations committees, and department of the interior sub-committee members.

The Park Commission will present informally the situation as to the Great Smoky Mountains Park and outline briefly the program for the two-state joint committee for its development.

All the members of the North Carolina Park Commission are in Washington for the important conference, as follows:

Chas. E. Ray, Chairman; Kelly E. Bennett, vice-chairman; Percy B. Berebee, Francis J. Heazel, Raymond U. Sutton, W. R. Winkler, E. C. Guy; C. M. Douglas, secretary; A. H. Graham, chairman State highway and public works commission; R. Bruce Etheridge, director of the department of conservation and development.

Joe Huffman Goes On Navy Cruise

Joseph E. Huffman, local grocer, chief specialist, Naval Reserve, has been issued orders to participate in a five week training cruise aboard the USS PONCONO AGC-16.

Mr. Huffman reports to the commanding officer, training staging division, Winston-Salem, for process to active duty status in the Naval Reserve. Upon completion of process he will report to the Commandant, sixth Naval district, for further assignment.

Upon completion of his training cruise, he will disembark at Norfolk, Va., on February 24, and be released to inactive duty status. He will receive full duty pay plus transportation to and from his home.

AAA Office To Close Wednesday Afternoon

In order to comply with the 40-hour week regulation for county agricultural conservation association employees, the local AAA office will be closed every Wednesday afternoon effective January 21. Office hours now are Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, 8:00 a. m. to 12:00 noon, 12:30 p. m. to 4:30 p. m.; Wednesdays and Saturdays 8:00 a. m. to 12:00 noon.

ARTIFICIAL BREEDING SERVICE TO BECOME AVAILABLE HERE

farmer in North Carolina to improve his dairy herd, it was pointed out by Mr. McClure.

The barn was constructed with special attention to safety features to protect the caretaker of the bulls as well as laboratory technicians. A modern laboratory is contained in the barn with all the necessary equipment to carry on the work, and a modern home has been constructed adjacent to the barn to house the caretaker and his family.

Only proven bulls will be used in the stud, Mr. McClure pointed out. He added that a nation-wide search has been made for bulls that will come up to the standards required by the Southeastern Artificial Breeding Association, and no bull will be acquired for (Continued on page 8)

SCENE AT CRASH WHICH CLAIMED LIVES OF THREE



View of the wrecked automobile in which Barnard Grant Proffitt and Chester Ray Proffitt, brothers, and Eston Earl Proffitt, a cousin of the two, lost their lives when the vehicle left highway 221, eight miles from Boone Saturday afternoon. (Photo by Blair.)

Three Are Killed As Auto Plunges From Icy Highway

MANY GIVE TO POLIO FUND

Receipts Near Half Total Being Sought; Chairman Asks Prompt Aid.

The March of Dimes campaign is going forward with marked success in the county, but Chairman Bob Agle is insisting that contributions be made promptly in order that the goal may be reached as quickly as possible. Total receipts are a bit less than half of the quota of \$1,675.00, it is revealed, and Mr. Agle in giving out the figures, issued the following factual statement:

"Watauga county's entire quota is only \$1,675.00. Approximately \$7,000 has been spent on one Watauga child alone since she was stricken with the crippling disease in the epidemic of 1945. If this were your child, would you have the money for her continuous care? The National Foundation will do that for you—out of the sum made up from each person's relatively small contribution. Have you made yours? There are only ten more days left in which to make your contribution."

Following is a list of some of the initial contributors to the March of Dimes.

- Ernest Lewis 2.00, Bill Rush 2.00, Appalachian Theatre 10.00, Mrs. E. T. Glenn 3.00, R. E. Agle 10.00, George Wilson 1.00, G. H. Phillips 2.00, Mr. and Mrs. E. N. Hahn 25.00, W. C. Green 1.00, City Florist 2.00, John G. Martin 5.00, Tom Beach 2.00, Wade E. Brown 1.00, Robert Tee Gross 5.00, Frank Hodges 1.00, Ralph Moretz 2.50, Boone Tire and Bargain Store 10.00, Reins Sturdivant 5.00, W. R. Richardson 1.00, W. C. Richardson 1.00, O. K. Richardson 1.00, Donald R. Lumpkin 2.50, Dr. and Mrs. John G. Barden 2.00, C. H. Blackburn 1.00, Mrs. Justin W. Come 10.00, F. L. Wilcox 1.00, Mrs. Minnie Coffey 1.00, T. B. Moore 1.00, C. A. Price 5.00, Daniel Boone Hotel 5.00, Paul Moretz 1.00, E. J. Bodenhammer 1.00, G. F. Critcher 2.00, S. C. Eggers 3.00, T. M. Shore 2.00, Jerome Coffey 1.00, Mrs. T. Len Cook 1.00, Mae H. Miller 5.00, Mrs. Margaret Hughes 1.00, J. K. Parker Jr. 1.00, Mrs. J. W. Vines 1.00, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Henson 2.00, Don Perry 1.00, Eunice Query 5.00, Bryon Wilson 1.00, H. W. Wilcox 2.00, G. B. Brown 1.00, L. Moore 2.00, A. E. South 1.00, Helen Underdown 1.00, Anonymous 5.00, Glenn Bodenhammer 1.00, J. L. Reese 1.00, John Kirk 1.00, G. W. Austin 1.00, James B. Mast 5.00, Tom Lawrence 5.00, John Adams 5.00, A. C. Reese 5.00, R. S. Shipley 2.00, Joe Norris Jr. 3.00, D. A. Austin 1.00, J. H. Thomas 1.00, Mrs. Charis Baldwin 1.00, Mrs. L. Moore 2.00, F. L. Wilcox 1.00, Mrs. Ed Henson 2.00, Don Perry 1.00, Eunice Query 5.00, Bryon Wilson 1.00, H. W. Wilcox 2.00, G. B. Brown 1.00, L. Moore 2.00, A. E. South 1.00, Helen Underdown 1.00, Anonymous 5.00.

CRAFT HOUSE CLOSED

Craft house at Watauga Handicrafts Center is at present closed due to the absence of the director, Mrs. W. J. Kelsey, who is in Berea, Ky., attending opportunity school. It will be reopened on January 26.

It's good sense to put extra dollars to work—Buy United States Savings Bonds.

Two Brothers, Cousin, Are Fatally Injured in Accident On Highway 221 Saturday; Triple Funeral Services Are Conducted Monday.

Three Meat Camp township youths, two of them brothers, the other a cousin, were killed at six o'clock Saturday afternoon, when a car in which they were riding careened from highway 221, eight miles from Boone, and crashed into a group of trees. The accident, perhaps the worst of its kind in Watauga county history, is believed to have been caused when the car skidded on the icy pavement.

Barnard Proffitt, 21, and his cousin, Eston Earl Proffitt, 17, were instantly killed. Chester Ray Proffitt, 12, Barnard's brother, died after having been admitted to Watauga Hospital. All suffered head injuries.

Elbert Bryan, who, it was said was driving the car, suffered from minor head injuries and bruises.

Bryan is reported as being unable to recall the cause of the accident. Funeral services for the three youths were conducted Monday morning at 11 o'clock from the Proffitt's Grove Baptist Church in the home neighborhood. Rev. Wm. Cook and Rev. Mr. Stevens were in charge of the rites and the bodies were interred at the Proffitt's Grove cemetery.

Eston Earl Proffitt is survived by the parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Proffitt, and the following brothers and sisters: Arlie, Cicero, Dayton, Fred, Henry; Mrs. Lance Hamby, Mebane; Mrs. Woodrow Winebarger, Zionville; Harlene, Newport News, Va.; Pearl, and Oliver Proffitt of the home.

Barnard Grant Proffitt, whose death occurred on his 21st birthday and Chester Ray Proffitt, are survived by the parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Proffitt, and the following brothers and sisters: Glen, Kermit, Marion, Cless, Ralph and Dean Proffitt; Mrs. Clint Miller, Mrs. Edward Wilson and Jewell Proffitt of the home.

MANDAYS

The Bureau of Labor Statistics has estimated that 35,000,000 man-days of employment, the third highest total on record, were lost in work stoppages during 1947. This was small when compared with the peak of 116,000,000 man-days lost in 1946, but it was just under the next highest total of 38,000,000 in 1945.

HIGHWAYS

A total of \$895,000,000 worth of work on 44,700 miles of highways was contracted for in 1947, by various states, according to Public Roads Commissioner T. H. MacDonald. This was a \$150,000,000 increase over the 1946 contract total.

PRESIDENT'S BALL PLANNED NEXT WEEK

Annual Benefit Dance To Be Held Next Thursday in Local Gym; Local Polio Chapter is Reorganized With Howard Cottrell Chairman.

The President's Birthday Ball, arranged to provide additional funds for the infantile paralysis campaign, and since its inception, the highspot of the winter social season in Boone, will be held at the Appalachian High School gymnasium in Boone Thursday evening January 29, starting at 9 o'clock, it is announced by Howard Cottrell, chairman of the event, who is also chairman of the Watauga County Chapter of the National Infantile Paralysis Foundation.

The ball, which is being promoted with the slogan "dance that others may walk" will likely be largely attended. Charlie Johnson's Collegians will supply the music for the occasion, and the people of the community and county are being urged to participate in the event. Those who don't dance should come too, it is noted, and enjoy the fellowship of the evening, while contributing a share to a worth-while enterprise.

Mr. Cottrell states that a film, in line with the polio campaign, entitled, "The Crippler," has been secured as an added promotional feature and will be shown in different sections of the county. Since this material hasn't arrived, however, definite dates of the presentations can't be announced at this time.

Local Chapter Re-organized

At a meeting held last Wednesday evening, the Watauga County Chapter of the National Infantile Paralysis Foundation was re-organized with Howard Cottrell president. Other officers are as follows:

R. D. Hodges, Jr., vice-chairman; James Farthing, treasurer; Mrs. R. D. Hodges, Jr., chairman of the woman's activities group; Dr. H. B. Perry, Jr., chairman of the medical advisory committee. The duties of the local chapter are to handle the county's share of the funds derived from the March of Dimes, and to see that all local victims of infantile paralysis have treatment, in so far as is humanly possible.

Beaver Dam Man Sells Good Burley

Ralph Sherwood, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Sherwood of Sugar Grove, sold his crop of burley at the Mountain Burley Warehouse last Thursday, and although it was the second crop he had ever raised the 1588 pounds of weed, brought him \$858.22. The figures given below were taken from the warehouse sales slip:

314 pounds at 57c; 274 pounds at 60c; 334 pounds at 58c; 452 pounds at 54c; 214 pounds at 36c; total 1588 pounds \$858.22.

P. T. A. Will Meet Monday Evening

The P. T. A. will meet next Monday night at 7:30 at Appalachian High School. All parents and teachers are urged to be present.

BURLEY SALES TO END FRIDAY

Prices Continue High As Final Sales on Local Floors Draw Near.

The final sales of the current burley tobacco season will be held Friday of this week, it was learned last night, bringing to an end one of the most successful sales periods in the history of the Boone market.

More than 50,000 pounds was sold Tuesday at uniformly high prices, some crops having averaged well up in the fifty cent bracket. It is stated that when sales are ended no less than five million pounds will have been sold this year.

Receipts continued surprisingly regular yesterday afternoon, as large loads were seen from four counties in North Carolina and at least one in Virginia. Those who have some tobacco yet on hand are urged to bring it in immediately for quick sale at a top-notch figure.

T. B. Seal Sale Drive Will Close

The seal sale drive is scheduled to close for this year on Feb. 1. There are still many people who have neither returned their seals, nor sent in the two dollars. The committee is asking that those persons who have not answered the seal sale plea to please do so immediately. In this way Watauga can close the sale with the rest of the counties in the State.

Well finished, harmonious furniture is an essential of a pleasing, home-like room.

DOUGHTON FAVORS TAX CUT; SEES VETO OF KNUTSON BILL

Washington — Rep. Doughton (D-NC) predicted today Congress would sustain a veto of the present Knutson bill to slash income taxes \$5,600,000,000 a year.

Nevertheless, the North Carolinian told a reporter, he thinks President Truman is wrong in his stand that there should be no over-all reduction in Federal revenues.

And if the Senate "moderates" the GOP tax measure after it leaves the House it might muster the necessary two-thirds majority to override a presidential shutdown, the veteran Congressional tax expert said.

As matters now stand, Doughton declared, the bill introduced by Rep. Knutson (R-Minn) and the President's own plan for a "cost of living" income tax cut offset by a new levy on corporations present "a choice of two evils."

"Thus far I have seen no justification for restoration of an excess profits tax," he said. "There should be a reasonably tax cut, but not as much as in the Knutson bill." Treasury experts say the GOP proposal actually would reduce federal revenue by \$6,300,000,000.

Doughton, who managed tax legislation when his party controlled Congress, said that in his opinion "there are too many Federal employees." He added:

"We are spending too much and taxing too high." Doughton said he is not yet ready to say whether he will vote for the Knutson bill in spite of his objections to it. The stand he ultimately takes will have a strong bearing on whether Republicans can attract enough Democratic (Continued on page 2)