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KING STREET BY ROB RIVERS

FRIEND OF OURS from way back, makes one of his frequent visits to our sanctum, and gives us the low down on his behavior during the past several years, and it seemed that he was deporting himself in the most approved form. . . . Quoth he, "I never take a drink, haven't for several years, care nothing for dancing or card playing, rarely go to the movies, cause they hurt my eyes, don't fish or hunt and quit following the cock and game, don't smoke, do have on a rigid diet. . . . Never pay any particular mind to the fair sex, and stick right around the house when I'm not at work!" . . . We admitted he was doing a fair job of punishing himself, and then inquired something of his manner of driving the high-pressure car out front. "Do you stop at all the red lights?" . . . Do you pull up at a safe distance when you approach a railroad crossing as the authoritative whistle of the locomotive sounds a few hundred feet down the line. . . . Do you slow down on the hair pin curves on mountain highways? . . . stop when highway workers have blocked the way? "Huck yes, you know I do all these things. . . . I am extremely careful," said the lad whom nature had helped along the way to rectitude. . . . "That's fine," says we, "but WHY?" . . . and he wondered too, and shook his head sorrowfully as he pulled into the line of traffic with reckless abandon.

GEORGE WILSON, one of our good friends, and Mrs. Wilson, drop by the house and leave us a fine fat hen for Sunday dinner, which is greatly appreciated. . . . A. C. Miller, who resides out on the Mountain in Shawneehaw township, makes his annual visit to the Democrat and leaves us a number of fine apples from his orchard, which has never failed to yield a satisfactory amount of fruit in the 21 years Mr. Miller has owned it. . . . The recurring kindnesses are daily appreciated, and we enjoyed his brief reminiscences about the old friends, who aren't around any more.

FOLKS ABOUT TOWN continue to wonder what's going to happen, whether the Communists are going to take the country, or if it will be Fascists. . . . Some of them seem to see doom written on every page of the daily newspaper, and don't believe anyone in public office from the President down to the city councilman, knows what he is doing. . . . "Prophecies of doom" are on the increase, and none of them are "for" anything just "against" . . . We wouldn't know just what the crystal ball holds in store for this nation, which has brought more food, more clothing, more gadgets, more cars, more conveniences, than any folks have ever known. . . . but we do believe that our attitude toward government officials, can in the long run do more to destroy the democratic form of government than the members of the Communist party. . . . The prophets, the ones who know enough to label Franklin Roosevelt a nut, and President Truman a screwball, likewise think the Governor, the Senators and Representatives a group of self-seekers. . . . They are heedlessly disrespecting the government which has made us great, and thoughtlessly, perhaps, teaching disrespect of the governmental institutions to the youth. . . . A fellow handed us a card the other day, depicting a dejected looking soul, occupying the one seat found in most bath-rooms, with the inscription, "The only fellow in Washington, who knows what he's doing." . . . If these things would be funny, if their indictment of our system wasn't so staggering. . . . They would amuse, if their long-run damage to the "American way" wasn't so tragically potent.

MERCHANTS take initial steps toward the inauguration of the Christmas shopping season, which again promises to be a period of unusual retail activity. . . . Burley tobacco market opening looms at the start of the Santa Claus season, quickening the business life of the community. . . . Toys already being seen in the stores of the city as the women-folks start drafting their gift lists, and the men-folks comment on how quickly the merry season of the Yule returns.

LOCAL REALTORS tell of lessened demand for property, but report a considerable number of sales from week to week. . . . Plans for first homecoming down at Appalachian High proceeding at League Brothers courteously provide shelter and entertain those waiting for the 9 o'clock bus. . . . Glorious autumn foliage comes tumbling down and provides us with a tough week-end as we dispose of the leaves, mow the grass, and get the place all squared for winter. . . . Auto-ist, parked at curb as we start. (Continued on page eight)

Merchants Planning Christmas Opening

FFA Boys Go To Kansas City, Mo.

Sherwood Bingham, Jack Billings and Kenneth Perry members of the Cove Creek FFA Chapter and their advisor R. G. Shipley attended the 22nd National FFA convention in the Municipal auditorium, Kansas City, Missouri, October 10-14. They were among the more than 5,000 delegates attending the convention. Some of the high lights of the meeting were the national FFA public speaking contest, presentation of the Star Farmer award and 136 National FFA band and chorus interviews with young farmers from Britain, demonstrations in electronics, entertainment by Dr. I. Q. and other nationally known entertainers. They visited many points of interest, including Swift Packing Plant, President Truman's home, Chevrolet assembly plant.

Royal, one of the greatest livestock shows in the world. Most of the top show herds in the country were there. In route they visited some of the most outstanding livestock farms in the nation, among them were Edge-Cliff, Green Leaf Farms, Bianchi Hereford Ranch, Windsor Place, Longview Farms, J. C. Penny and others.

Sherwood and his advisor won the trip as a result of his outstanding farming program. Jack and Kenneth were delegates of the chapter.

"Adequate" Buyers Must Attend Auctions

Lexington, Ky., Oct. 24.—The Burley Auction Warehouse Association revised its sales committee today and acted against burley auctions without "adequate" buyers representing major tobacco companies.

The association in a resolution stated "no basket of tobacco shall be sold in the burley belt unless and until an adequate set of buyers . . . is present to bid competitively upon the same."

In revising its sales committee, it named five persons to represent growers associations and grower interest and five warehousemen. The personnel of the committee will be named later.

Mrs. Mary E. Hartley, 74, Dies on Thursday

Mrs. Mary Elizabeth Hartley, 74, died at the home in the Triplett neighborhood last Thursday at the age of 74 years.

Mrs. Harriet Coffey Dies at Shulls Mills

Mrs. Harriet Melissa Coffey, 87 years old, died at the home at Shulls Mills last Saturday.

DOUGHTON IS HOPEFUL CUT MAY PREVENT TAX SPIRALS

Ninth District Solon Says He'll Cooperate with the President in Effort To Balance Budget Next Year; Tax Increase Not Ruled Out.

Representative Robert L. Doughton of North Carolina said last week he would cooperate with President Truman's efforts to balance the budget next year, even to the extent of increasing taxes, if necessary, as a last resort.

Rolfe Child, 5, Drowns In Pond

Five-year-old-Shella Ann Rolfe, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Shelley Rolfe of Ashland, Va., was drowned October 12 in a pond at Poplar Springs Farm, near that city, where she was visiting.

Openings for Deer Hunts Available

There are still a number of openings for hunters to participate in organized deer hunts in the western part of the state, according to Clyde P. Patton, Executive Director of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission.

1950 Orders For Lime Are Sought

The Watauga County PMA Committee is now approving 1950 orders for lime at the rate of two tons per acre for land which has not been limed during the past five years, or a soil test shows that there is a deficiency of lime, not to exceed 50 tons. This is an extended opportunity to farmers in the county to get their lime fall in time to spread it before winter sets in.

Fall Meeting Home Clubs Friday Night

The annual fall meeting of the Watauga County Federation of Home Demonstration Clubs will be held at the First Presbyterian Church Friday night, November 4, at 7:30 p. m.

Scout Campaign To Start November 3

The Boy Scout campaign starts here November 3rd. It is explained by D. C. Thompson, publicity director for the effort, who states that the Lions Club is sponsor of the local troop.

REA GRANTS LENOIR LOAN

Washington, Oct. 24.—The Rural Electrification Administration today granted a \$270,000 loan to the Blue Ridge Electric Membership Corp., Lenoir, N. C., for construction of 130 miles of line to bring electricity to 670 new consumers.

CORRECTION

The Democrat's asked to make a correction in the story of the death of Mrs. Lillie Victoria Greene. It should have been stated that the rites were conducted by Rev. E. F. Troutman and Rev. Raymond Hendrix.

Alice Townsend Dies As Auto Overtakes

Scout Executive

Resident of Valle Crucis Section Fatally Injured as Car Overtakes.

Alice Marie Townsend, 21, resident of the Valle Crucis section, died in Grace Hospital, Banner Elk, last Thursday, from internal injuries sustained Sunday night when the car in which she was riding overturned on the highway between Banner Elk and Heaton.

Surviving are the parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jason Townsend of the Valle Crucis neighborhood; three brothers, Claude, Earl and Chester; three sisters, Mrs. Vilas Townsend, Gracie and Rosie Townsend.

District Junior Meeting Slated

Members of the Jr. O. U. A. M. of the Third District will meet November 2, at 7:30 p. m., with Elk Park Council No. 85 at Elk Park.

Scout Leader To Speak Here

Mr. Herbert Stuckley of Atlanta is to be in Boone and Blowing Rock Thursday and Friday and will speak to the Rotary Club Thursday night and meet with the directors of the Lions Club and other citizens interested in the Scout movement.

C. Of C. Board To Meet Today

A special meeting of the board of directors of the Chamber of Commerce has been called by President H. W. Wilcox, and will be held Thursday at 12 o'clock.

James E. Johnson Dies in Massachusetts

James E. Johnson, 54, native of Watauga county, a resident of East Saugus, Mass., died at the Chelsea Soldier's home there on October 8 from a short illness.

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Safety Courses for School Bus Drivers

Mr. C. I. Yelton, of the State Safety division will meet with school bus drivers of the county in Boone at the courthouse on November 3, in line with the effort of the department to provide the utmost safety for the children.

GOLD PRODUCTION

Domestic production of gold showed a sharp decline in 1949 to reverse an upward trend from 1945 low, according to the Bureau of Mines, California, led in the production of gold in 1948, with 421,473 fine ounces, North Dakota came second, with 277,650, with Utah third, 268,422.

GROUP NAMED TO AID FUND FOR NEW 4-H CLUB'S CAMP

Clyde Greene Heads Committee To Raise Local Share of Funds To Replace Camp Taken Over by Moore Hospital; Local Quota Set at \$1,900.

Clyde R. Greene has been appointed chairman of the Watauga 4-H Club Camp Fund Advisory Committee, it has been announced by County Agent L. E. Tucker.

A new camp is planned; in fact, it is already under construction on some land joining the Lower Mountain Experiment Station Farm near Waynesville. Business firms and individuals have given most of the money for the land, the main building, water system, bath houses and kitchen. Now the public is asked to give a comparatively small amount to the large building program.

May Apply For New Burley Base

The County Committee announced this week that it is accepting 1950 burley tobacco new grower applications. There are several important changes in the regulations governing new grower applications for the coming year.

Lions Hear Band Students Perform

Several members of the local school bands gave a performance before the last Lions club meeting. They were under the direction of Roy Blanton, who heads the bands in the Demonstration school, the high school and the college.

Mrs. Joe Crawford Speaks To Rotarians

Mrs. Joe Crawford spoke briefly of her trip to Europe this past summer before the local Rotary Club and their guests.

Mrs. Ruth B. Clarke Is Taken by Death

Mrs. Ruth Bowie Clark, 88 years old, died last Saturday at the Banner Elk Hospital, where she had been a patient for four years.

Farm Electrification Takes Big Jump

Electrification of farms in North Carolina took a substantial upswing in 1948-49, resulting in this state for the first time topping the national percentage of electrified farms, according to data received here from the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture.

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