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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.

12 PAGES—2 SECTIONS

KING STREET

BY
ROB RIVERS

THE OLD YEAR recedes into the shadows, as the New Year dawns bringing with it bright prospects of continued good business, resultant prosperity and freedom from a shootin' war for another twelve months. A few fire crackers were exploded about the town as the old year died, otherwise the transition to the first page of a new calendar came without fanfare. Southern folks haven't yet accepted the dawn of a New Year as the time for whoopee, most of the gay parties being staged during Christmas. While the Associated Press gives down with the happenings during the first half of the twentieth century, we find wide disagreement as to whether the fifty year period has ended or not. Glancing back through the files of the Democrat we find that the Boone church bells tolled out the nineteenth century at midnight December 31, 1900. Consequently, we would submit that the half way point in the twentieth century will not have been reached until December 31, 1950. Incidentally Boone folks didn't take the expiration of the nineteenth century too seriously. They apparently went to bed unperturbed, for when the midnight hour arrived, the ringing of the bells "caused quite a raffle in some of our homes, the residents thinking a fire alarm was being sounded." However a lengthy editorial hailed the New Year and the new century, and the closing paragraph said:

"IT WOULD SEEM that the nineteenth century, wonderful century, has left but little for the twentieth century to achieve. So great has been her march in the line of progress, but "God has indeed made man, and man has sought out many inventions," and it is impossible to conceive what the brain and brawn of American grit and energy may yet accomplish. We await developments."

NEW AUTO TAGS put in their appearance with the usual reversal of the figures and field of the traditional orange and black. Wish the department of motor vehicles would provide a bit of variety, so's we'd figure we had something new and different every time we sent a check. Recalling the first transaction we ever had in re motor license. The Rivers lads had managed to gain ownership of an oversize motorcycle back in the old days, and found out one had to have a tag. The license business was handled at that time through the office of the Secretary of State, and in return for our two dollars, Hon. J. Bryan Grimes sent us a handsome plate about four inches square, a sort of gray and blue combination of baked enamel. We tied the tag onto the spluttering machine which turned out to be a sort of model for an American cussedness. And sometimes when the weather was dry we would be able to ride a few miles over the alleged highways, scaring every horse we met out of his wits, and incurring the anger of all the teamsters in the community, and then the thing would stop dead cold for a spell. On one such occasion 'Squire Bryan suggested "a stick of dynamite ought to start her." And we wouldn't have cared much, 'cept for that shiny new license plate, dangling from the rear, which set us apart. We were lads of record down Rolly way, and we pushed and grunted and cranked, and sometimes the big motor would take off like a jet. On off days, we would get a flat dejected pop or so. . . . and walk.

NEW YEAR'S EDITIONS carry the news of the killed and wounded during the open season on the nation's highways. Good holiday trade seen as deposters tally the score on the past year. . . . Congressman Doughton sees need of curbing tax chiselers as boon to the nation's treasury. . . . Congress gets down to business again as the President renews demands for remainder of Fair Deal program. . . . Governor Dewey not to run again, gets headlines, although the deduction would have been obvious to any high school kid. . . . Mont Glover, who raises fine apples over at the Valle Crucis orchards, has our thanks for a fine basket of Rome Beauties. . . . Jim Brown hands us a fine pencil set in the hopes that our penmanship may be improved a bit, and we thank him. . . . Kiddies trek back to school Monday, some of them hugging up those big super size dolls, which Santa distributed so generously. . . .

Bloodshed Boxscore

On N. C. Highways	
Killed Dec. 20 thru Dec. 28	21
Injured Dec. 20 thru Dec. 28	348
Killed thru Dec. 29 this year	828
Killed thru Dec. 28, 1949	729
Injured thru Dec. 28, 1949	9,467
Injured thru Dec. 28, 1948	7,393

HOW OLD DO YOU FEEL?



Remember the song and dance child of "Baby Take a Bow?" Do you recall "The Little Colonel" and "Little Miss Marker?" Here she signs divorce papers against actor John Agar in Los Angeles superior court.

Burley Sales Started On Local Mart Today



Dr. Jones Will Hold Radio Hour

During January, February and March the Presbyterian Hour will have as the radio preacher Dr. James A. Jones, pastor of the Myers Park Presbyterian Church in Charlotte. Dr. Jones is a native of North Carolina. He was educated in Davidson College, Union Seminary in Virginia and in New College in Edinburgh, Scotland. The programs in this series will be aired over some 100 stations co-operating with the Southern Religious Radio Conference and will be produced in the newly-opened cooperative studios of the Protestant Radio Center. The general emphasis of this series will be "Christianity Begins with You." This program may be heard in this community over radio station WSOC next Sunday morning at 8:30.

Auto Tags May Be Secured Here

Automobile license plates are now available one day a week at the city hall in Boone, and in Blowing Rock, as a special convenience to the motorists of the area, it was learned the first of the week. Inspector Allison, of the State department of motor vehicles will be here each Thursday morning to issue licenses, take care of matters pertaining to motor vehicle titles, and render other official services to the citizens. Mr. Allison will be in Blowing Rock each Thursday afternoon for the same purposes.

Wayne B. Ferguson Joins FHA Staff

William A. Smith, Watauga County Supervisor for the Farmers Home Administration, announced this week that Wayne B. Ferguson of Jefferson, has been appointed assistant county supervisor and has assumed his new duties with the office here on part-time basis. Mr. Smith expressed pleasure at having the addition made to the staff since the work load for the county has increased. He has had no assistant since July 1947. The State's farm income from tobacco is about five times as large as its income from cotton.

DOUGHTON TO BACK DRIVE AGAINST TAX LAW EVASION

Ninth District Solon Thinks if All Tax Money Due Government Collected, Budget Might Be Balanced; Tax Increases Are Held Unlikely

Washington—New backing for a drive against tax chiselers came today from chairman Doughton (D., N. C.) of the House Ways and Means Committee. "If the government collected every dollar owed it under present law, it is my hope and opinion that we could just about balance the budget," Doughton said after arriving here for the opening of Congress. He thus aligned himself with Rep. Forand (D., R. L.), who called earlier this week for a crackdown on persons who evade paying their federal taxes. Forand said he believes that if enforcement were stepped up and existing loopholes in the tax laws plugged, the government might channel and additional \$5,000,000,000 a year into its money bags. Doughton said he feels confident Congress will give the treasury "every agent it needs" to check up on possible violators. As chairman of the committee that originates all tax laws, Doughton is a position to press a drive against "leakage" before considering any tax program proper. On other matters relating to the nation's finances, Doughton said:

1. The people are "clamoring" for tax relief and economy in government. He himself wants a balanced budget, insists on cutting spending and increasing revenues. 2. Congress should act immediately on the question of excise taxes—the levies applied either at the manufacturer's or retailer's level on such items and services as transportation, light bulbs, luggage and telephone calls. But if those taxes are reduced it may be necessary to find other sources of revenue. 3. On the prospect for a tax increase: "There wasn't much sentiment around here for increasing taxes when Congress adjourned. In fact, there seemed to be a lot of opposition to it."

Meanwhile a federal reserve board report on how consumers spend their money showed that American families pay out as much for federal income taxes as they do for automobiles, furniture and home appliances. Out of every \$100 of family income, \$9 goes for federal income taxes and \$9 for the three classes of purchases listed.

New Hospital Trustees Named

Three new members of the Board of Trustees of Watauga Hospital were elected to take office January 1, at a recent meeting. Those elected, each of whom will serve for a three year term are: Dewitt Barnett, Herman R. Eggers and Stanley A. Harris. They replace Clyde R. Greene, John Howell and Dave Mast, whose term expired the first of the year. Howard Gragg of Meat Camp was elected to fill out the unexpired term of Earl Cook, who had asked to be replaced. According to the charter and by-laws of the hospital, three new trustees are elected each January 1, and three are retired. The full board of trustees is now constituted as follows: G. K. Moose, W. R. Winkler, J. H. Winkler, Wade E. Brown, A. E. South, Howard Gragg, Dewitt Barnett, Herman R. Eggers and Stanley A. Harris.

MOOSE CHAIRMAN HOSPITAL BOARD

Dr. G. K. Moose was re-elected chairman of the board of directors of Watauga Hospital at the initial meeting of the new board Tuesday afternoon. Other officers elected were: W. R. Winkler, vice-chairman; Wade E. Brown, secretary; A. E. South, treasurer.

Boone Business Back To Normal

Business activity in Boone settled down to routine Tuesday following the New Year's and Christmas holiday periods, and a general note of confidence is being sounded in retail circles as the continued good business prospects for 1950. Most of the stores were closed Monday as were the postoffice, bank and other public offices. Business during the Christmas season is described as being uniformly good in the business district.

SITTING PAT



The countenance of Pat Valentino proves Joe Louis' right still packs a terrific wallop. Pat takes a 10-count after being propelled through the ropes in a Chicago bout.

New C. of C. Directors, Officers Take Over

Annual Meeting of Chamber of Commerce Set for Tuesday; Weems To Speak



SAM WEEMS

Mrs. Grace Hardin Rites On Tuesday

Mrs. Grace Blackburn Hardin, a member of one of the area's leading families, and widow of the late Henry J. Hardin, died at the home near Boone Sunday afternoon, following a prolonged illness, which had been critical for the past several months. She was 61 years old. Funeral services were conducted at the Boone Methodist Church Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock. The pastor, Rev. Sam B. Moss, was in charge, and Rev. E. F. Troutman, pastor of the Grace Lutheran Church, assisted in the rites. Interment was in the family plot in the community cemetery. One son and one daughter survive: Joseph Hardin and Mrs. Wilson Bolling, both of Boone. The mother, Mrs. M. B. Blackburn of Boone, survives, with two sisters, Mrs. J. W. Jones, and Mrs. Jennie Critcher of Boone. There are four grandchildren. Mrs. Hardin, a daughter of the late Manley B. Blackburn, and Mrs. Blackburn, was reared in Boone, and was educated at Appalachian. She was married to Henry J. Hardin and the family had lived on Howard's creek, near Boone, for many years. Mrs. Hardin was well known throughout the county, and had attracted widespread and enduring friendships. She was a member of the Boone Methodist Church.

Flake Bowles Funeral Sunday

Funeral services for Flake Bowles, former assistant county agent for Watauga county, are to be held at the Sulphur Springs Baptist Church at Hixden next Sunday at 1 o'clock, and burial will be in the church cemetery. Mr. Bowles was killed in the early days of the war when a plane in which he was flying crashed in the Mediterranean. The body was temporarily interred in a European graveyard. Deceased served as assistant farm agent here for two years and was popular throughout the county. He enlisted in the air corps October 3, 1942, and was a pilot at the time of his death, although it is known whether or not he was at the controls of the ship at the time of the fatal crash.

16th Child At 39

Woodbury, Conn.—Mrs. Norman Cole, who is 39, gave birth to her sixteenth child, a daughter, at her home, on December 20th. All 16 of the children are living.

Barter Group Here On Monday

On Monday night, the lyceum series at Appalachian State Teachers college will present the Barter Theatre's production of "The Imaginary Invalid" by Moliere. Frederic Warriner, who has been popular with Appalachian audiences in past performances here, will play the lead as Argan, the hypochondriac. Elizabeth Wilson, who has played leading roles in Barter summer productions, and who is a very fine character actress, will play a major role as Toinet, servant to Argan. A number of the supporting characters have appeared in productions at Appalachian before. Mell Turner was with the "Hamlet" troupe here last year, and went to Denmark with the same group to present the play at the Danish Drama Festival in Elsinore. Ernest Borgnine has been with Barter for four seasons and also played with "Hamlet". James Andrews, named by Henry Fonda as the 1948 Barter award winner, has appeared at Appalachian twice. He is a talented musician and vocalist. Also in the production are Herbert Nelson, one of Barter's best known leading men; Joan DeWeese, named Barter award winner by Louis Calhern in 1946; Phena Darnier; Nancy Watts; Mac Shaw; Woodrow Romoff; and Cliff Collier. This play by Moliere is a very funny comedy, and it is expected that a capacity audience will be present for its performance on Monday night.

WILCOX AGAIN HEADS C. OF C.

Herman W. Wilcox was re-elected president of the Boone Chamber of Commerce at a meeting of the new board of directors held Tuesday afternoon. Russell D. Hodges was elected first vice-president; Ira Ayers, second vice-president; Alfred Adams, treasurer; Stanley A. Harris, secretary.

U. S. S. KENTUCKY

The Navy has no plans to complete the unfinished battleship Kentucky, which was under construction when World War II ended. The ship will be moored in the Norfolk Navy Shipyard at Portsmouth, Va., after being floated out of her building drydock in February. The warship is now about 80 per cent finished.

MARCH DIMES IS GEARED TO REACH RECORD DURING MONTH

Jim Taylor Makes Preliminary Announcement; Polio Campaign Will Start January 16; Double Contributions Needed To Meet Emergency

The 1950 March of Dimes campaign must hit a new high, "if the nation is to undo the ravages of the blackest toll of infantile paralysis in its history," Mr. Jim Taylor, Watauga County March of Dimes Director, said this week in urging everyone to double his contribution to the drive this month. The year 1949, Mr. Taylor said, was the most severe in the 12-year history of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis. With more than 40,000 persons stricken, epidemic aid funds of the National Foundation were virtually depleted, he pointed out, and it was necessary to conduct an emergency drive for the first time in the organization's history. The county director declared that the epidemic drive provided stop-gap funds barely enabling the National Foundation to carry on through the last three difficult months of 1949. But if those who were stricken are to continue receiving help, resources must be replenished in the forthcoming March of Dimes, January 16-31, Mr. Taylor said.

"The financial problems involved in caring for polio victims are increasingly difficult not only because of widespread epidemics but also because of soaring medical and equipment costs," he said. "Only an enormously successful March of Dimes appeal will enable the National Foundation to provide continuing care for the thousands already stricken while at the same time preparing for any eventuality 1950 may bring. The year 1949 has taught us that we must be alerted for extremes."

There also is urgent need for funds to continue the National Foundation's all-embracing research program aimed at ferreting out means of prevention and control of this crippling disease, Mr. Taylor declared. Mr. Taylor announced that all local and county committees for this year's campaign will be appointed Saturday, January 7.

Holidays End At Appalachian

Christmas holidays ended for Appalachian State Teachers college students on Monday evening, and classes began on Tuesday morning on schedule. Students and faculty had been on holiday since December 21. The present quarter schedule will be as follows: Mid-term examinations will be held on January 19 to 21st; final examinations begin on February 22; and the quarter will end on Friday at noon, February 24. The college enrollment for the year has now reached 1289, the largest in the history of the institution. Elevator man in New York spends most of Christmas stuck between floors.