

WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

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FIVE CENTS

KING STREET

BY
ROB RIVERS

FIRST WEEK of New Year finds most of the merchants of city reporting good business for the time of year. One leading establishment reports one day since Christmas grossed more business than any day during the holiday shopping season. Most retailers optimistic over the prospects for business during the rest of the year. Tax listing gets under way in county, and citizens being urged to make an accounting of their possessions as of January 1, so's twill be known how much goes down on the official cuff. Greeting Federal income tax agents on the streets, just a few jumps ahead of the State tax man. D. C. Mast of Sugar Grove and J. Frank Wilson of Vilas renew their subscriptions. Both had first subscribed for the hometown gazette on its establishment in 1888 and had made annual renewals since that time. There are a good many of these charter members of the Democrat's circle of readers, and we always particularly enjoy their visits. Hundred dollar bills showing up often in the channels of local trade these days. Marion Thomas, recuperating from a recent illness, visits in town and plans to open his income tax office. Sixty-degree weather of last week supplanted by sub-freezing temperatures.

DEMOCRAT GETS INTIMATION that the Ku Klux Klan is liable to be setting up shop in this city some of these days. Hope the report isn't true. Being one of those who "joined" the hooded organization way back in its hey day, we definitely do not welcome its return... Its record of terrorism of un-American activity, and general cussedness should not appeal to the people of Boone and Watauga county. We submit there is no place here for such a group. They don't fit in with the local pattern of living, and if there is such a movement on foot, public opinion should provide an effective bar to its activity.

JIM TAYLOR, heading the March of Dimes, which gets under way this week, and makes appeal for whole-hearted support of the annual campaign to provide funds for the relief of those suffering with infantile paralysis. The need is reportedly greater than ever before over the nation, while here in Watauga the expenses of our stricken children continue to take slices out of the polio fund. We should welcome the opportunity of giving liberally to this cause, the worthiness of which cannot be brought into question. All of us can slice a bit from usual contributions of questionable worth, meet our polio quota, and still keep the personal budget in line. Let's give generously to the little children to those who were stricken.

Let's help 'em to walk again. Jim Rivers, who recently spent a while with us, wondering at the growth of the town during the sixteen years he has been away. Jim's "Boone Sketches" which used to occupy this same space, have taken a place in the traditions of the mountain region, but he refused a guest privilege during his vacation. The platinum-colored minks being husbanded by Lawrence Payne as the start of Boone's first fur-farming venture. The advertising customer who long-handled the brand name "Lord Calvert", and the printer came up with "lard colored". Ed Payne, who worked with the State highway department maintenance division, from the time of its establishment, enjoying his retirement. Democrats trying to figure out a ticket for the Deluxe Jackson day dinner, and Republicans eyeing the Lincoln-ditto, as the first local signs that 1950 is another good old rough and tumble election year.

BARTER THEATRE company appears at College Monday evening, and students and townspeople overflowed into the aisles to witness the professional theatrical production. The comedy known as "The Imaginary Invalid", with Frederic Warrener in the stellar role was enthusiastically received by the large gathering, as was the personal appearance of Robert Porterfield, who founded the Barter Theatre back in 1932.

MR. PORTERFIELD, himself a profession stage performer, was slightly on the hungry side back in those depression days, when the chickens had failed to show up in the pot, and a lot of other actor acquaintances in the east had gone on an enforced diet. He conceived the idea of bringing "death and blood" stage attractions to the folks in the region of Abingdon, Va., on a barter basis, formed a company, and opened a theatre. Admission was set at 25 cents, or an equivalent in "witties", and

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CHRISTMAS AT PRISON CAMP



(Photo Palmer's Photo Service)
A section of the dining hall at the State prison camp, near Boone, taken as the prisoners partook of their Christmas dinner. The feast consisted of roast turkey with chestnut dressing and gravy, potato salad, creamed corn, snap beans, candied sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, raisin custard pie with ice cream, hot biscuits, coffee. In addition each of the prisoners received a bag containing cigarettes, nuts, candy, oranges and bananas. Mr. Carter J. Farthing is camp superintendent.

Postal Receipts Hit New High

C. OF C. PREXY



Boone Office Continues To Show Increase; 21 New Employees Required in Christmas Rush.

Postal receipts for the Boone office for the calendar year 1949 were \$3,363.85 more than those of the year 1948, it is revealed by Postmaster John E. Brown, Jr., following final tabulations of the business done during the old year.

Receipts for the year 1949 were \$32,602.66, as compared with \$29,238.81 for 1948. In 1947 the total volume of business was \$27,092.15.

In 1949 money orders in the amount of \$192,320.54 were issued.

Christmas mailings were described by the postmaster as decidedly the heaviest in the history of the office, both from the standpoint of incoming and outgoing mails. Twenty-one employees, in addition to the regular postal staff of 14, were used to handle the holiday mails.

Boone Man To Advise On Public Housing

Portsmouth, Va.—T. Newton Cook, of Boone, is slated to become the Public Housing Management advisor for all of North Carolina, effective January 23, Wade M. Miles, general housing manager in this area, said last week.

Cook is now Miles' assistant for projects in Norfolk County, Portsmouth and South Norfolk.

In his new position, Cook will have his headquarters in the area office in Richmond. He will work under the direction of Ernest J. Moyle, area management advisor for Virginia, North Carolina, West Virginia and Kentucky.

Cook had had extensive experience in North Carolina, both in government housing and farm service.

He was graduated from the N.C. State College of Agriculture and Engineering in 1931 with a bachelor of science degree in agricultural economics.

In 1933, Cook joined the Farm Security Administration as a county supervisor in North Carolina. During the next six years, he served in Haywood, Buncombe, Cherokee, Onslow and Carteret counties.

Introduction of visitors by Stanley A. Harris, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce.

Recognition of Tourist's Association and introduction of officers, by Mr. Harris.

Induction of officers and board by Rev. Edwin R. Troutman.

Music by Miss Patsy Ellis, accompanied by Mrs. Buchanan.

Introduction of Dr. Leo K. Pritchett of Appalachian State Teachers College by Mr. Wilcox.

Address, by Dr. Pritchett.

Music by the Floradoras, an octet from the college.

Introduction of Sam Weeks, superintendent Blue Ridge Park, Roanoke, Va., by Wade E. Brown.

Address by Mr. Weems.

Music by Mrs. Buchanan.

Benediction by Rev. Everett Ranson, minister Christian Advent church.

BUILDING RECORD

Construction activity, bolstered by over \$1,000,000,000 more public spending than in 1948, reached a new all-time record.

The nation invested for public and private construction the record total of \$19,300,000,000, according to the Office of Domestic Commerce of the Commerce Department and the Bureau of Labor Statistics. This compares with a total of \$18,775,000,000 in 1948 and was an increase of three per cent.

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75 Join Hunt For Gunmen

State, Federal, County Officers Trail Armed Fugitives, Believed To Be "Desperate"; Bloodhounds, Airplane, Used as Officers Establish Roadblocks Around the County

Forty State highway patrolmen, with a number of county officers and FBI agents, were working Tuesday evening in the mountains west of Sugar Grove in an effort to apprehend two gunmen, believed by officers to be members of a car thief ring.

A cordon of law enforcement agents encircled the county during the afternoon and night, and all automobiles and trucks were stopped at the roadblocks. Rifles, shotguns and machine guns are being carried by the officers, who are of the belief that the fugitives are desperate men. Bloodhounds had been used during the afternoon and attempts were made to locate the gunmen from an airplane which constantly encircled the area in which they were hiding.

The manhunt, which is the most widespread in local enforcement annals, began Tuesday morning at 7 o'clock when Patrolman R. B. Parker of Boone went to the vicinity of Willowdale Church on 421, where a 1948 Mercury automobile had been wrecked and abandoned, following efforts to destroy it by fire. It was said that a passing truck had pulled the car from the ditch before the officer arrived.

After exchanging gunfire with Mr. Parker, the men disappeared into the woods several miles from the scene of the accident. They were said to have used a 22 rifle and a shotgun. When help arrived, the men were trailed into the woods with bloodhounds and a rifle was found in a thicket.

The wrecked car, identified as stolen in Birmingham, Ala., contained a sawed-off shotgun, a typewriter, two movie projectors, an outboard motor, adding machine, notary seals from North Carolina and Georgia. A quantity of pennies and nickels were found, an electric drill, sledge hammers, and a short wave radio receiver. License plates were said to have been stolen in Georgia.

While about 75 men in all, joined in the hunt, headquarters for the direction of the search were established at the intersection of highway 194 and a dirt road. SHP and FBI agents, officers of Burke, Caldwell and Watauga counties, as well as members of the State prison department were conducting the search.

ECHOES BLUE RIDGE TO BE FEATURE OF NEXT SUMMER

SECRETARY



Stanley A. Harris, recently re-named secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, and president of Echoes of the Blue Ridge, Inc.

Digest of Message By the President

Washington—Here is a digest of President Truman's major recommendations to Congress in his State of the Union message:

DOMESTIC

Taxes—"Make some changes in our tax system which will reduce present inequities, stimulate business activity, and yield a moderate amount of additional revenue." He said specific suggestions will be made shortly.

Business—"Close the loopholes" in the anti-trust laws so as to bar "monopolistic mergers."

He promised to send the lawmakers later a "series of proposals to assist small businesses and to encourage the growth of new enterprise."

Farm—Pass the Brannan Plan with its system of production payments; provide mandatory price supports for products which are major sources of farm income and are not adequately covered.

Labor—Replace the Taft-Hartley Act with "a law that is fair to all and in harmony with our ideals." Expand the social security program to provide higher benefits and greater coverage. Improve the unemployment compensation program to supply more jobs less. Set up a labor extension service to encourage education in labor relations.

Health, education—"Establish a system of medical insurance which will enable all Americans to afford good medical care."

Housing—Extend rent controls another year. Assist cooperatives and other non-profit groups to build dwellings which middle-income families can afford.

FOREIGN

Military—Continue selective service in this country. Support Atlantic defense plan.

Economic—Keep the European Recovery Program going without "crippling" cuts in funds. Pending measures to put into effect the "point four" program of American technical and financial aid to underdeveloped nations. Approve U.S. membership in International Trade Organization.

Overall crop production in the United States during 1949 surpassed that of any previous year except 1948.

POLIO VICTIM



Emma Lee Dollars of Deep Gap, a patient at the Asheville Orthopedic Hospital since she was stricken with spinal poliomyelitis in September 1948. She would like to thank her many friends or their gifts and cards received by her at Christmas. She spent Christmas week-end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Dollars of Deep Gap.

Burley Prices Averaging \$45.

Sales of Burley tobacco on the floors of the local warehouses are proceeding this week, with the allotted poundage being offered at each auction, and Roscoe Coleman, local warehouseman, expresses himself as being pleased with the prices brought since the post-Christmas opening.

Wednesday's sales will bring the season's poundage to three and a half million pounds, and receipts of the weed remain steady. Monday and Tuesday's average was slightly above \$45 per hundred.

Mr. Coleman states that although full auctions are being conducted, there is plenty of floor space always in one or more of the three big warehouses, and that farmers positively do not have long waiting periods before their crop can be unloaded. In most cases, the grower can get a sale the same day, pocket his check and return home.

Wilson To Establish Hatchery in Boone

Messrs. Lawrence and Clyde Wilson of Wilson's Feed Store, left Sunday for Springfield, Ohio, to take delivery on complete Buckeye incubating equipment, which will be put in service at the local store.

The equipment will have a capacity of 21,760 eggs, and Mr. Wilson hopes to be able to take care of all orders with quality baby chicks, hatched in Boone. It is expected that the new enterprise will go into operation next week.

Florida Judge To Visit at College

The Honorable George E. Holt, president of the Circuit Judges Association of Florida, will visit the campus of Appalachian State Teachers College next week as the guest of the college. He will spend all day January 12 on the campus.

Judge Holt will lecture at the chapel hour, and to various classes during the day and evening, on the new State of Israel, which he visited recently as a member of a study tour of the American Christian Palestine Committee.

\$1,000 CHECK AS GIFT

Ogden, Utah—Eighty-two relatives of Mr. and Mrs. Ezra Richardson received, as a Christmas present, a check for \$1,000 each. The Richardsons, who have no living children, have given away more than \$500,000 since they began the custom of cash Christmas gifts to nieces, nephews and other relatives.

World survey shows merchant fleets are regaining strength. (Continued on page four.)

FINAL PLANS BEING SHAPED FOR FUNDS TO WAR ON POLIO

County Chairman Sets Up Organization by Townships in Effort To Get Adequate Aid for Polio Victims; Names of Those Appointed.

The 1950 March of Dimes gets under way in Watauga County and throughout the nation Monday, January 16, and will continue until the end of the month.

During that two-week period, citizens of Watauga County, like their fellow Americans in all parts of the country, will help write the answer to the threat of polio epidemics next summer by providing for continued care and treatment of polio patients of 1949 and prior years.

Terminating the 1950 March of Dimes is the most critical in the history of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, Mr. Jim Taylor, county campaign director, said that the fund-raising machinery is all set to launch the greatest March of Dimes ever undertaken.

"It is imperative," Mr. Taylor said, "that all know the seriousness of today's polio situation. More than 40,000 cases were reported during 1949, the worst polio onslaught in the history of the disease in this country.

Thanks to public support of previous annual appeals of the National Foundation, prompt and effective aid was rendered the stricken. But as cases after case developed, chapter after chapter of the National Foundation found itself without funds. Financial aid was rushed to them from the organization's epidemic reserve fund. So great was the drain that millions of dollars earmarked for emergency assistance dwindled to the vanishing point.

Consequently, Mr. Taylor pointed out, if the Watauga County chapter is to continue providing services to polio patients in this and other communities, everyone must "hit the line hard" during the campaign January 16-31.

Toward that end, Mr. Taylor said, "we are organizing committees on a widespread front. Volunteers are being enlisted from civic, fraternal, business, labor, school, sports, women's club and social fields. Workers will be briefed thoroughly as to the problem and the desperate need for an enormously successful 1950 drive."

Citing the high cost of polio, Mr. Taylor disclosed that during the height of the recent epidemic season the National Foundation was spending March of Dimes funds at the rate of \$100,000 per day to pay patient bills alone! He said that it is estimated 17,000 of those stricken in 1949 will require continued aid in 1950, in addition to victims from prior years who also still need help. "Obviously," Mr. Taylor said, "there's a tremendous job of work ahead of us. I am confident though, that all the people in Watauga County will do their utmost to meet the challenge during the coming March of Dimes."

Mr. Taylor announced that the following persons will serve as committee heads in their respective townships:

Blowing Rock, Grover Robbins and G. M. Suderth, Jr.; Blue Ridge, Marion O. Coffey; Elk Elk, Stewart Simmons; Stony Fork, Hayes Wellborn; Bald Mountain, Glenn Howell; Meat Camp No. 1, Tom Jackson and Tom Jones;

Meat Camp No. 2, L. E. Beach; Cove Creek, Sam Horton and Ivy Wilson; Beaver Dam, J. H. Gentry; Bell High School; Watauga, Mont. Givier and Howard Mast; Laurel Creek, Ed Hagaman; Brushy Fork, Grady Bradley.

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