

KING STREET

BY
ROB RIVERS

INESSANT RAINFALL of Monday night and Tuesday, brings hope to the farmers who are still plagued by low water . . . Those who are using pails to carry water to their herds and flocks, will be especially grateful, when their usual source of water are built up to their former adequacy . . . TV weather maps tell the people just what to expect in the way of weather, and the element of surprise has been removed, since the days, when if there was something special coming up, one would ask Squire Bryan to cast his weather eye around the horizon . . . But one thing is unchanged and perhaps unchangeable—our disposition to quarrel about the rain and the snow and the biting wind . . . Stanley Harris, manager of the Chamber of Commerce and Merchants Association, we hear, recently made some apt remarks in this regard.

MR. HARRIS IS QUOTED as saying folks should quit lambasting the weather about Boone . . . "When there's a bit of bite in the air . . . enough so that it adds a little snap to one's step," said Mr. Harris. "we quarrel for a month about the cold weather." . . . We quite agree with Mr. Harris that some of the finest weather we have is the most unpopular, and that we would be a lot better off, and the town would profit, if we would find something else to talk about . . . But we doubt that any other topic would ever be quite so handy . . . We're 'specially set against the fellow, who always hails one with "Cold enough for ye?" . . . And it always happens when the mercury has hit the zero mark, and one is struggling against a wind of gale proportions.

KIDDIES are again taking advantage of the columns of the Democrat to publish copies of the letters they have dispatched to Santa Claus, and the faith of the little fellows in the beneficent old gentleman with the whiskers, is refreshing in this day when folks seem to choose the course of doubt and fear and hate . . . Santa Claus is one of the indispensables of Christmas time, and we still like to contemplate the patter of Blitzen's feet on the roof top, and the mass distribution of joy and good will and peace by the fellow from the North Pole . . . He will live always in the happy minds of little children, and his spirit will abide forever in the hearts of kindly peoples.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS are being laid away in the stores of the town in great numbers, so the merchants say, and there is evidence of a record retail turnover here . . . Clerks spend hours "gift wrapping" purchases, which invariably wind up with a huge bow on top, containing a couple of hundred yards of "baby ribbon", and rivaling a floral corsage in which one can't find the flower . . . We wonder how come this custom of splashing such endless piles of ribbon on a package . . . It isn't too pretty . . . Then, the time consumed in the stores and in the homes piddling with the silken strands is considerable, so much so in fact, that a thrifty fellow has invented a gadget which will pile on the loops of ribbon to any desired depth—all in a twinkling . . . And about the time the thing comes to all stores, people are apt to drift away from the ribbons and bows.

ONE CENT POSTAL CARDS, it seems, are soon to go the way of the horse and buggy, and the kerosene lamps and the dodo, and it will be necessary to lay a couple of coppers on the line to send one of these messages, which used to be so cherished by the mail handlers in the small postoffices—about as good as a party telephone line . . . Just noticed a white back, that on these double-barrelled, return post cards, one wash carries the likeness of G. Washington, while the other has the face of Martha . . . The card has always been the T-model of postal communication—only a penny—and we are sorry the thing has to start the rise to a more expensive level.

Health Council Prexy Insists On Safety At Christmas Time

Postmaster Asks Patrons To Do Mailing Early

Mr. John E. Brown, Jr., Boone postmaster is insisting that patrons of this office do their Christmas mailing early so that the immense volume of mail may be handled with efficiency and promptness.

Mr. Brown especially asks that special care be used in addressing mail to insure prompt delivery. Particularly in the case of local greeting cards, addressed

Soil Supervisor Will Be Elected During Week

Farmers have the remainder of the week to vote for a Soil Conservation District Supervisor for the county. D. F. Greene of Sugar Grove has been nominated for re-election. Any other voter desiring to vote for another candidate can do so by writing the candidates name on the

Mrs. J. R. Craven McArthur To Hurt In Accident

Mrs. J. R. Craven suffered a broken leg, and other less serious injuries in an automobile accident near Taylorsville Sunday.

Mrs. Craven is a patient at Watauga Hospital, where it is said, that despite the seriousness of the fracture, her condition is favorable.

Mr. and Mrs. Craven, and Miss Vera Ault Sligh were returning home from Conover, where they had visited friends, when their car collided with an automobile driven into the highway from a side road. Only Mrs. Craven was seriously injured.

Program Xmas Music Arranged

A program of Christmas music will be given for the community at the Methodist Church on Monday night, December 17, at 8:00 o'clock by the Double Octet of Appalachian State Teachers' College. The music will be presented under the direction of Mr. Hoyt Saffit, of the music department of the college, accompanied by Giles Salvo.

In its first concert of the season, the group sang for the morning worship service at First Baptist Church, Shelby, N. C., on last Sunday to a congregation of over 1800 people where they were warmly received and highly commended for their lovely presentation of Christmas songs and carols.

The Octet presented a portion of the program for the Lions' Club meeting at the Daniel Boone Hotel on Tuesday night of this week to a cordial and receptive audience.

The program will be under the sponsorship of the Boone Ministerial Association and will be offered as a part of the Christmas season observance of that group for the community.

During the program, a Christmas offering for CARE for Korea will be taken. Persons unable to attend the meeting may send their Christmas offering to the church or may direct it to any local pastor with proper designation.

Other Christmas events under the sponsorship of the local Ministerial Association will be a Christmas musical presented by the Presbyterian Church in their Sanctuary on Wednesday, Dec. 19, at 8:00 p. m., directed by Mrs. Nicholas Erneston.

On Sunday night, Dec. 23, a union carol service of Boone churches will be held at the Methodist church at 7:30. A filmstrip, "Christmas Around the World," will be shown at the carol service. All three programs will be carried over local radio station WATA.

A record attendance of 475,000 visited the 1951 North Carolina State Fair.

Agle Gives Rules For Safety About the House During the Christmas Season; Care Needed in Lighting; "If You Drink, Don't Drive."

Don't hang all your safety stockings on the Christmas tree and then ignore danger in the remainder of the house; that was the advice today from Mr. Bob Agle, president, Watauga County Health Council.

"People who will take the utmost precautions about their Christmas tree will be amazingly careless about the other holiday decorations they have around their house," he said. "The pitch-filled Christmas green, whether it is a tree or a branch, is a dangerous fire hazard when it has dried out."

Mr. Agle said that every year accidents bring a black Christmas to hundreds of families. "These tragedies, due to carelessness, can be prevented," he said.

The Watauga County Health Council suggests that fresh greens are just as important as a fresh tree in reducing fire hazard. People who would never place a candle on a tree will use highly flammable greens, cotton, or paper decorations near lighted candles on the table, mantel, or in a window.

Mr. Agle also pointed out that the National Safety Council's rules for Christmas safety should be followed. Only electric candles and nonflammable decorations, cotton or paper which has been treated for fire resistance should be used. The greens should be located so that a chance spark from a cigarette cannot ignite them. In hanging

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Col. M. T. McArthur of Johnson City, Tenn., will be the principal speaker at the meeting of the Boone Chamber of Commerce which is to be held at the Skyline Restaurant next Tuesday at 12 o'clock.

The meeting will feature the election of officers and directors, and a large attendance of the members is asked.

Col. McArthur is one of the leading figures in the development of the Tri-State Highland Association, which bids fair to be a most important organization in the development of East Tennessee, Western North Carolina and Southwest Virginia. This association and Col. McArthur are much concerned in the development of an outdoor drama in this area, and all who possibly can should hear him.

H. G. Farthing Tells Of Stream Sanitation Plan

H. Grady Farthing, member of the State Stream Sanitation Committee states that Mr. Earle C. Hubbard of Raleigh, who has been connected with the State Board of Health in various capacities during the past seventeen years, has accepted the position of executive secretary for the State Stream Sanitation Committee effective December 1.

Plans are now being made by the committee for the development of the stream sanitation program throughout the State. The law, which was passed by the 1951 General Assembly, provides that all of the streams of the State be classified as to their major usage and that after complete information is obtained regarding the pollutional load on the streams and after the classifications have been established, that orders be issued by the abatement of existing pollution as well as for the control of the addition of new pollution to the streams. Mr. Farthing further stated that because of the magnitude of the problem and its effect on all sections of the State, and the shortage of technical personnel, that it will necessarily be sometime before all of the streams can be properly studied and classified. However, the committee hopes to get its work underway very shortly, now that they have been able to secure their executive officer. Mr. Farthing stated that the committee expects to have a meeting soon after the first of the year at which time the program of work will be adopted.

Boone Rotary Club Holds Regular Meet

Vice-President Lawrence Owsley presided over the regular meeting of the Boone Rotary Club held Thursday, November 29, at 6:30 p. m., at the Skyline Restaurant.

Mr. Leonard Eury, head librarian, Appalachian State Teachers College, spoke to the group on contesting. Mr. Eury addressed the club on the contesting business indicating various ways in which contests have been won.

Mr. Bob Beachley, formerly of West Jefferson and now a resident of Boone, entered the club as a new member. Mr. Beachley is affiliated with the New River Light and Power Company as an electrical engineer. He was formerly associated with the Rotary Club in West Jefferson.

John C. Masten, visiting Rotarian from Winston-Salem, was in attendance.

Health Council Acts In Praise Dr. Perry

The Watauga County Health Council expresses appreciation to Dr. H. B. Perry, Jr., on the occasion of his resignation. The resolution, signed by R. E. Agle, president, and Madeline McCain, secretary, follows:

"The Executive Committee of the Watauga County Health Council wishes to publicly express appreciation to Dr. H. B. Perry, Jr., for his continuous support and backing and his unselfish contribution of time and effort in the organization and promotion of the Health Council movement.

"It is with sincere regret that this committee accepts the resignation of Dr. Perry that he might further his studies.

"We hereby wish to express our gratitude for his help and our sincere good wishes for success in his further study and our earnest hope that when this study is completed he will return to Watauga County."

Mrs. Ella Baldwin Funeral Thursday

Mrs. Ella Bristol Baldwin, 59, died at the home, Boone, R. F. D. 3, last Friday.

Funeral services were held at the Poplar Grove Baptist Church by Rev. A. C. Moody, and burial was in the White Springs cemetery. The husband, B. J. Baldwin, survives, with four daughters.

O.E.S. Meeting

There will be a regular meeting of Snow Chapter No. 220, Order of the Eastern Star, Monday night, December 10, at 7:30 o'clock. Please attend. By order of the W. M. Christmas party will follow the meeting.—Helen Underdown, secretary.

Blowing Rock Man Helps Sink An Enemy Ship



SGT. THOMAS H. WRIGHT

With the 3rd Infantry Div. in Korea—Sgt. Thomas H. Wright of Blowing Rock, N. C., recently helped a field artillery battery bag an enemy ship, an unusual target for artillery gunners.

Wright, an aerial observer with the 3rd Division's Light Aviation Section, and the pilot of the observation plane spotted the Chinese craft, a 25-foot shuttle barge, ferrying ammunition and supplies across a river to Red assembly areas.

The observers promptly communicated with the artillery battery, and the gunners—located approximately 20,000 yards away—went into action. It took 40 rounds, but one of the projectiles finally found the target. A direct hit blew the barge sky-high.

Wright, a brother of Mrs. Meda Knight, Blowing Rock, entered the Army in 1949 and took basic training at Fort Jackson, S. C., and joined the 3rd Division at Fort Benning, Ga. He had been in Korea for a year, arriving with the division in November 1950.

Wright was a graduate of Blowing Rock High school in 1948. His address is as follows: RA 14344905 Btry. B., 39-FABN 3rd Infantry Division, APO 468, Postmaster, San Francisco Calif.

Others in Service

Another Blowing Rock boy is in direct combat at this time, Seaman Charles N. Klutz, son of Mrs. Paul Klutz. He is aboard the USS Rochester which is shelling the enemy now. His address is S. Charles N. Klutz, 4th Division 427-96-77, USS Rochester (CA-124) Fleet Post Office, San Francisco, California.

Prayers for Soldiers

Special prayer service for all the Blowing Rock boys, and especially these two who are in the danger zone, was held Friday night at the home of Mrs. Paul Klutz. Present were Rev. and Mrs. Sam Cappell, Mrs. Dal Tester, Miss Gladys Tester, Mrs. H. P. Holshouser, Mrs. W. L. Holshouser, Mrs. Stewart Bolick, Mrs. Hattie Brown, Mrs. Carrie Johnson, Mrs. Lewis Lentz, Mrs. John Lyons, and Sonny Klutz.

Boys from this area in the armed services include Robert Walters with the Marine Corp; Roland Johnson, John D. Broyhill, Taylor Greene and Glenn Tester with the Army; Malcolm Craig, Randall Foster, Jr., Sonny Hollars, Frank Brown, and Peter Greene with the Air Force; Mayne Coffey, Bill Downs, Bruce Greene, Dwight Story, and Taft Broyhill with the Navy.

"Messiah" To Be on Air Sunday, Dec. 23

Appalachian College Choir's rendition of the Christmas portion of Handel's "Messiah" will be broadcast coast to coast over the facilities of the Mutual Broadcasting System, as was announced some time ago.

The program which will be transmitted through the facilities of radio station WATA will be broadcast Sunday, December 23, at noon to 12:30.

Mrs. Polly Greene Is Taken By Death

Mrs. Polly Francis Greene, 79, died at the home at Vilas November 30.

Funeral services were held at the Willowdale Baptist Church on December 2, Rev. C. O. Vance being in charge of the rites and interment was in the Union cemetery at Mabel.

Two sons and one daughter survive: Ralph Greene, Bristol, Tenn.; Doughton Greene, Vilas; Mrs. C. C. Edmisten, Vilas.

PMA Elections Will Be Held Thursday, Dec. 13

Santa Claus Is Coming To Boone On Saturday

Santa Claus is coming to town next Saturday, and the Merchants Association is extending a cordial invitation to everyone to bring the children for their share of the candies which will be distributed from Santa's big pack.

The bright lights have been turned on in town, and the most extensive Christmas decorations in the history of the town have been installed. The visit of Santa

Historical Group Hears Report Of Clyde Greene

A meeting of the Southern Appalachian Historical Association, Inc. was held at the Skyline Restaurant Tuesday, Dr. D. J. Whitener, executive vice-president presiding.

Mr. Clyde R. Greene reported to the members on his recent meeting with Mr. Kermit Hunter and Mr. Samuel Selden at Chapel Hill pertaining to the proposed outdoor drama to be staged in this area. Mr. Greene indicated that Mr. Hunter and Mr. Selden will arrive in Boone Monday of next week for further discussions and will be the principal speakers at the general

County Schools To Close Dec. 21

County schools will close for the Christmas holidays at noon Friday, December 21, and work will be resumed Monday, December 31, it is announced by Superintendent W. H. Walker.

Mr. Walker also says that East-er Monday, April 14, will be observed as a school holiday, and that the time lost will be made up Saturday, May 17, the last day of school.

Health Council Holds Meeting

The Watauga County Health Council met in regular quarterly session on Monday night, December 3, at the Green Valley School with approximately 200 in attendance. Mr. Robert E. Agle, president, presided over the meeting and reviewed the purposes of the council. Mr. Mont Glover gave the invocation.

A resolution of appreciation to Dr. H. B. Perry, Jr. was presented from the executive committee of the county council and adopted by the entire group. An invitation was accepted from the Perkinsville Baptist Church for the next quarterly meeting. An invitation from the Bethel Community for a meeting was noted and held over for the following quarter.

The program theme "Safety for Christmas" for this meeting was announced and appropriate skits were presented by Cove Creek and Green Valley School children. The Cove Creek Elementary School, under the direction of Mrs. Paul Walsh presented a transcribed interview pointing up the importance of safe decorating of homes, business houses, and the Christmas tree, and the selection of suitable and safe toys for the children. Mrs. Joe Shackford's 8th grade of Green Valley presented a pageant "Why We Have Lights on our Christmas Tree" depicting the importance of properly trimming and caring for the tree for Christmas safety.

The Green Valley Home Demonstration Club served cookies and fruit juice to those present. After the social hour, the meeting adjourned, to meet in March in the Perkinsville Baptist Church.

Flue-cured tobacco production in North Carolina is estimated at 945,530,000 pounds for 1951, a new State record.

Mrs. Mary Ward, 73, Succumbs On Monday

Mrs. Mary Ward, 73, died at the home at Sugar Grove Monday.

Funeral services were conducted Wednesday at 1:30 at the Zion Hill Baptist Church by Rev. Byron Trivett and interment was in the Greer cemetery.

Surviving are four brothers and one sister: Lionel Ward, Boone; Council Ward, Reec; Miles and Sam Ward, Beech Creek; Mrs. Martha Presnell, Rominger.

POPULATION

The Census Bureau, on November 15, estimated the population of the armed forces overseas. This October 1, including members of the armed forces overseas. This is 254,000 greater than the estimate for September 1 and an increase of 3,975,000 over the 1950 official census of those in the U. S. and an estimate of overseas armed forces.

List Of Local Voting Places Given; Nominating Meetings To Precede Elections; County, Community Committeemen To Be Named.

PMA community elections will be held Thursday, December 13, it was announced this week by Dwight Cable, county PMA chairman. Elections will be held at the regular PMA voting places in the fourteen communities in the county as follows:

Bald Mountain: Voting place.
Beaver Dams: Van Farthing's store.
Blowing Rock: City Hall.
Blue Ridge: M. O. Coffey's home.
Brushy Fork: Vill. Service Station.
New River: Elrod's store.
Cove Creek: James B. Mast's store.
Elk: Simmons' Store.
Laurel Creek: V. D. Ward's store.
Meat Camp: Green Valley School.
North Fork: Tamarack postoffice.
Shawneehaw: Rominger's store.
Stony Fork: Deep Gap postoffice.

Watauga: Howard Mast's store.

Nominating meetings will be held in the morning prior to the elections which will begin at 9 a. m. and continue to 6:00 p. m. A chairman, vice-chairman, regular member and two alternates will be elected for each community. A delegate to the county convention December 14 will also be elected.

Any farmer who has an interest in a farm as owner, tenant or share cropper is eligible to vote for committeemen and delegates in the community in which he resides. This means that any farmer who has received a payment or grant of conservation materials during the current year, or has received such grant during the past three years, and there is now being carried out on the farm one or more of the current program practices approved for the county by the State PMA Committee is eligible to vote. Also any farmers who have a share in a Burley tobacco crop this year is eligible to vote.

These committeemen selected from among your neighbors and friends will see to it that Federal funds allocated to the county are used to buy the maximum in soil and water conservation during coming year. They will make sure that you get your full share of acreage allotments for tobacco, and that you have an opportunity to qualify for price support loan or purchase agreements.

County and community PMA Committees are elected by your ballot. Every farmer, tenant or sharecropper in Watauga county who is interested in his own financial and physical well-being is urged to attend the election in his community and vote for the men, who, in his opinion, are best qualified to carry out the purposes of PMA programs.

Local Group Seeking Aid for Orphanage

As has been their custom for many years, a group of local people are making up a Christmas offering for the aid of the Grandfather Orphans' Home at Banner Elk.

Those desiring to contribute to the welfare of these mountain children who are being reared at Banner Elk, may leave their donations with Guy Hunt, Watt Gragg or Rob Rivers.

It is felt that this orphanage is particularly deserving of local support, without regard to denominational lines, since most of those being cared for there are natives of this immediate area.

A Correction

Major J. H. Thomas asks us to correct a statement published in the Democrat last week in regard to the board of tax appeals. The name of Mr. Perry Greene, secretary of the board, was unintentionally omitted from the article. It should have been said that those desiring further information should see Major Thomas, chairman; Perry Greene, secretary; Miss Ellen Coffey, Blowing Rock; Ed S. Williams, Mabel; or Clyde Moore, Boone.