

## King Street

BY ROB RIVERS

CHRISTMAS CARDS in a steady stream, bring their appreciated tidings of joy, and we never tire of these messages... of their varying shapes and colors, and of the signatures of the people who think well enough of us to spend their time and coin to convey their wishes for our good fortune at the Yuletide... It's a wholesome old custom—this thing of exchanging greetings at the holiday period, and the pictures on the cards are good for many pleasant moments... The snow scenes, the silver bells, the Santa Claus figures, and often, the scene of the Nativity embellish these messages, while on the lighter side are seen caricatures of frivolity, and occasionally the "gentleman songsters"... Anyway our big bundle of cards is one of our most cherished features of the holidays... The only sad note comes from the absence of messages we had had for a lifetime, and memories of old friends and true, who have gone away since our last year's Yule log burned out.

SNOW AND SLEET bring discomfort and slow down travel at the peak of the shopping season, but still the mid-week buying throng was large, and most of the merchants were tallying up increased sales. The school children gather up the last of the toys to aid the families which haven't shared in the bounty of the land, hurrying householders decorate last-minute trees of hemlock, cedar and balsam, as the youngsters hang the stockings by the mantel... Indications are that the folks are going to have a good Christmas in this favored region, and most of the Boone folks expect to stay close by their own firesides during the festival.

JANUARY draws near, and New Year's parties and resolutions are in the offing... The drafty, fitful and fickle month, named after the two-headed god Janus, who kept one eye focused on the road back, while the other scanned the far horizons of the future... Like the figure of mythology, we too, are inclined to look both ways as the bells ring out the old, and provide a noisy welcome for the new... At the end of the old year, we look back to a period, materially fruitful to an extent never before known in the world's history, but marked by war and by fear and misgivings... Locally the economy is enjoying a miraculous expansion, and there is good reason to believe that the New Year will bring forth even a greater degree of progress for the community and county... We shall share in that hope, and with our wishes to our readers for a New Year bountiful in all the good things, goes our gratitude for their kindness and indulgences of the past.

SHOW WINDOWS unusually beautiful this year... Those at Belk's Department Store get large number of compliments from the passerby... Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer in the window at the Boone Drug—a mounted deer head, trophy of a hunt by the Dr. Richardson, with a bright red electric bulb fixed to his nose. The big Santa at the Farmers Hardware, standing by a chimney... The bank of Christmas trees at J. C. Cline's growing smaller every day, and merchants busily engaged with scoop and spade, digging at the ice which makes foot travel so precarious.

ODDS AND ENDS: The continuing argument around the Democrat as to how many teams of horses pull the beer wagon in the Budweiser TV show... Lorn Harrison, who came to Boone as a railroad man, and stayed after the tracks were gone, calls at the Democrat office to renew his subscriptions—one for himself and one for each of his three children... Mrs. Texie Fox, of Vilas, also has four subscribers in the family, who enjoy the home town newspaper year after year... Jim Council's tale about the old woman from the hills, whose income had been next to nothing, and whose living had

## Headquarters March Of Dimes Campaign To Be Opened Here

### Building and Loan Gives Space For Polio Fund-Raising Effort; Campaign Will Open January 2

Headquarters for the 1952 March of Dimes at Watauga Building and Loan Building will be formally opened December 28 at 9 a. m., it was announced today by Mr. Jack Idol, Watauga county campaign director for the polio appeal of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis.

This office space was very generously offered for the present drive by Mr. Watt Gragg, secretary of the Watauga Building and Loan Association.

Mr. Idol said the headquarters space is ample for March of Dimes meetings, office personnel and records, campaign supplies and other facilities.

The campaign opens Wednesday, January 2, and continues to the end of the month, Mr. Idol explained, because the March of Dimes has ended each of the past four years in debt. This resulted, he said, from an increased number of new cases since 1948. Each year tens of thousands of patients from previous years still require assistance for continued care, he added.

"Because of the longer appeal period, more volunteer workers are needed this year than ever before. I appeal to anyone who can help to volunteer today. We need help in all departments and in all phases of work and we need it now. The headquarters telephone number is 208."

## Leo Pritchett Is Radio Speaker

By JAMES STORIE

Mr. Leo Pritchett, a member of the A. S. T. C. faculty, reviewed an interesting article entitled "Your Schools Answer." This article, written by Mr. Pritchett, recently appeared in the N. C. E. A. Journal.

Since this article has received so much attention from the public, we would like to review it briefly.

There can be an oasis for retired North Carolina teachers—if they want it. The teachers have a retirement problem, just like anyone else. But so far it is one of the neglected areas of "doing," not only by the teachers of North Carolina but generally by the teachers over the nation.

The proposed plan for North Carolina teachers is not a home nor a institution but a retirement center or community. The center would be patterned somewhat after the Penny Farms in Florida. About thirty-eight miles south of Jacksonville there is one of the finest retirement centers in the country. It is called the Memorial Home Community at Penny Farms. The community consists of about sixty acres of land on which are 22 buildings of French Norman design and a chapel. The community itself constitutes a small village of about two hundred people. Such a retirement center is not impossible for North Carolina teachers.

There are many reasons why such a center should be undertaken by the men and women in the teaching profession. For instance: there are many teachers

## Harris Pleads for Highway Safety

The nation's record of peak traffic fatalities on its "alcohol-holidays" brought a pre-Christmas plea for caution today from a motor vehicle official.

L. S. Harris, executive director of the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators, said he believed that the Christmas-New Year's holidays have become the saddest paradox of the times.

"At a time when we are traditionally at our gayest, the corners and doctors are the busiest as a result of traffic smash-ups," Mr. Harris asserted.

Mr. Harris said the record of traffic accidents on holidays—accidents due in large part to alcohol—had led safety workers to call these periods "alcohol-holidays."

## Democrat Issued Ahead of Time

The Democrat goes out early this time, so as to give the staff a Christmas vacation.

The office of the newspaper will be closed Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, and business as usual will be resumed Thursday morning.

The screwworm fly is a serious insect pest that causes huge losses each year to the livestock industry of the Southeast.

## Early Settlers Theme For Proposed Drama

### Ancestors of Dr. Greer Among the First To Come to Watauga County; President of Group Has Active Career

By MRS. RUBY ELLIS

The Mountain Drama to be staged in an outdoor theater near Boone will be built around the early settlers of this mountain section—settlers such as the ancestors of Dr. I. G. Greer, who were among the first to come to what is now Watauga County.

Dr. Greer was elected president of the Southern Appalachian Historical Association, Inc., at its first meeting recently.

The association was organized to produce a mountain drama.

Dr. Greer's family in Watauga County began with Benjamin Greer, a soldier of the Revolutionary War, who married a Miss Wilcox, and had eight sons and two daughters. One of the sons, William, lived to be 103 years old.

"Ike," as he is called around here, is the fifth of eight children born to Philip Greer and his wife, Mary, who was also a Greer before her marriage. Philip was a direct descendant of Benjamin.

Dr. Greer began his education at the Zionville Academy, at Zionville, 12 miles from Boone, where he was born.

When he was old enough, he entered Southerland School in Ashe County.

At 18 he came home to teach at Howard's Creek School, located on Howard's Creek five miles from Boone.

He taught there two years before accepting a teaching job at Walnut Cove.

After spending a winter at Walnut Cove, Dr. Greer abandoned



DR. I. G. GREER

teaching and entered the University of North Carolina to further his education.

He came back to Boone from the University to teach at Appalachian State Teachers College for 15 years, until his appointment as superintendent of the Baptist Orphanage at Thomasville.

He was at Thomasville another 15 years, until the biggest job of all came along.

He was chosen to serve as executive vice-president of the North Carolina Business Foundation at Chapel Hill.

"Ike" married Willie Spainhour of Morganton. They have two sons, I. G., Jr., who is in the armed forces, and Joe, now holding a position at Chapel Hill.

Dr. Greer and his wife are well known in North Carolina for their musical interpretations of folk

## "The Christmas Story" Is Given At Blowing Rock

### Principal James Storie Gives Holiday Message; Music Recital Given; Other News of Blowing Rock School

By MRS. LUCILE LETT

Friday morning at 9:30 o'clock, Mr. Eugene Koone's sixth and seventh grades presented the school's Christmas program, a pageant entitled "The Christmas Story," in the school auditorium. The student body and interested friends and parents were present.

Actors for the pageant were the reader, Mary, Joseph, three angels, three shepherds, three wise men, little girl, and singers.

The manger scene was built on the stage showing the star, silhouettes of sheep, a cow's head, a donkey's head, and a pair of doves added to the reality of the scene.

Before each scene or song was acted or sung, the reader gave the Scripture which described the scene.

Mrs. Charles Brown, head of the music department of the school, directed the music and the high school glee club rendered three numbers: "Jesus in a Manger," "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," and "There's a Song in the Air."

Following the program the classes retired to their classrooms where the P. T. A. grade mothers and teachers gave each class a Christmas party. Gifts were exchanged and programs presented in the classrooms. Students were then dismissed for their Christmas vacation to return to school on December 31.

## Choral Group Renders Christmas Program

### December Meeting P. T. A. Featured by Mrs. Erneston's Group; Other News from Appalachian High School

The Appalachian High School Choral Ensemble, under the direction of Mrs. Elsie Erneston, presented a most inspiring Christmas program for the December meeting of the local P. T. A. on Monday night at the Baptist Church. The program entitled "The Christmas Story in Scripture and Song" had as narrator Mr. William Ross. Beth Eggers, Glenn Miller and Betty Sue Norris presented three very pleasing solo numbers. Bob Gilley, Jim Holshouser and Guy Hunt gave an excellent portrayal of the Three Wise Men.

Margaret Phillips, Betty Jo Miller and Beth Eggers sang as a trio the beautiful "Gentle Mary Laid Her Child." The chorus demonstrated their ability to sing in varied combinations of voices, and as a group sang with a tone that blended perfectly. The group has worked well with each other and their director, and is to be commended for presenting such a fine performance.

Excerpts of the above program were presented over station WATA, Boone, Thursday at 1:45 p. m., sponsored by the Worth-

## Says Trees Good Local Farm Crop

### Woodland Constitutes 44% of All Land in Watauga County; Says Trees Most Neglected Crop

By H. J. WILLIAMS

Woodland, which comprises approximately 44% of all the land in Watauga County, is the most neglected of all crops. Like all other crops this land responds to good management and proper protection.

With timber prices expected to remain high for many years, the farmer who looks ahead and uses his woodland in the proper manner should realize a good profit from it.

Nature has a way of reforesting cut-over woods and idle areas, but much of the time the plants are of an undesirable type—plants that have little value from a lumber standpoint. The farmer can help nature in her job of thinning out the undesirable trees, leaving those of better specie more room for better and faster growth.

Under most conditions farmers take heavy losses on their woodland by selling their timber in whole lots or tracts. Selective cutting usually provides the best means of harvest. By this method only the mature trees, those that need thinning, and those promising the least return by further growth, are cut. This method leaves the woods in a good condition with growing timber left, which enables the farmer to make cuttings more often.

Woodlands in the Watauga Soil Conservation District should be protected from grazing. When grazing occurs in woods, the young seedlings are eaten or broken off by livestock, preventing natural reforestation. In old timber stands, where grazing has been permitted, there is no young hardwood timber growing to replace the mature trees when they are harvested.

## Babson Sees Decline In Business Volume

### Union Carol Service To Feature Holiday Here



Roger W. Babson

By ROGER W. BABSON

1. Excluding defense orders, the total business volume in 1952 will be less than that for 1951. However, National Income in 1952, will be very high, as war orders take the place of peace production.
2. The outstanding feature of 1952—barring all-out-war—will be the Presidential Election on November 4, 1952. I comment further upon this under paragraph 48.
3. The Administration and its economic advisors appear firmly convinced that radical inflation is about to break out next year. But the "brain trusters" are overlooking the fact that the boom is already old and that it was breaking badly when the Korean war broke out. The date of the slide has only moved ahead.
4. Farm income will continue high in 1952.
5. As 1952 wears on, the effect of controls, increased taxes, and high prices will cause a decline in legitimate business. If civilian production declines too much, the public may then cry, "This is a government-made slump; let's change the Administration."
6. If in 1952 it becomes evident that business is declining too much as a result of government curbs, the planners at Washington will rush their patient into an oxygen tent.

### LABOR OUTLOOK

7. Many labor groups will be successful in getting another round of wage increases in 1952. Although there may be more important strikes in the first part of 1952, there should be a decline in work stoppages in the last half year.
8. Tightness in the labor supply will continue through 1952, particularly of highly-skilled workers. Wages of such workers will be advanced voluntarily in order to hold them.
9. The Taft-Hartley Law will not be repealed during 1952, but may be amended. The Administrators of the law will continue to wink at some of its clauses.

### COMMODITY PRICES WILL REMAIN FIRM

10. Wholesale prices of many commodities will suffer a mild decline in 1952 when compared with the price level for December 31, 1951. In some lines the drop may be quite steep from the high levels of 1951. Retail prices for 1952 will hold steady.
11. Commodity speculation for a rise will not pay in 1952. Furthermore, our expanding stockpiles of strategic materials present a real price threat in the event of a peace scare. Such stockpiles could then act strongly as a depressant on prices. Wise merchants will operate with only a conservative inventory.
12. The cost of living will remain high during 1952. This prediction recognizes that living costs next year may continue

## Blowing Rock Rotarians Distribute Xmas Gifts

### Hospital Auxiliary Has Party; Hardin Is OPS Chairman; Christmas Tea; Other Blowing Rock News Items

By MRS. LUCILE LETT

The Blowing Rock Rotary Club held its weekly dinner meeting Friday night at Spring Haven Inn at 8:30 o'clock. Final plans for the annual distribution of Christmas gifts were made and calls for the distribution to take place Saturday and Monday before Christmas. This project is in conjunction with the Rotary Club of Boone and gifts are distributed to the crippled children of Watauga County.

Mr. John Garmer, a new-comer to Blowing Rock, was a recent Rotary visitor and the club announces a new member, Mr. John Goodwin, Production Supervisor of the Goodwin Family Guild Weavers, Blowing Rock's newest business interest, owned by Mr. G. C. Robbins.

### O.P.S. Chairman

Mr. R. H. Hardin, owner of Hardin Hardware, announces he is local O. P. S. committee chairman. Anyone desiring information on this matter may contact Mr. Hardin by phone at his home, or call by the store where printed material may be obtained.

### Hospital Auxiliary Party

The Blowing Rock Hospital Auxiliary held a Christmas party at the home of Mrs. Omer Coffey on Monday night, December 17. Each guest brought a gift for the hospital, gaily wrapped and put under the lighted Christmas tree.

Many humorous games were played after which Mrs. Richard Gragg opened the gifts. The hospital received bath towels, wash cloths, soap, tooth brushes, receiving blankets, hand towels, glasses, can openers, canned goods of beans, fruits, jams, jellies, and preserves.

(Continued on page eight)

## Town Merchants Observe Holidays

The town merchants will observe the Christmas holidays by closing on December 25 and 26, while the county offices will be closed on December 24, 25, and 26.

The Northwestern Bank and the City Hall will be closed on Tuesday, December 26, and Wednesday, December 26. The Post-office, however, will be closed only on Christmas day.

## Gets Award for Safe Driving

Wiley T. Lewis, former Boone resident has received an award for 22 years of safe driving for the Rutherford Freight Lines, Bristol, Va.

The award was one of 622 given by Markel Service, Inc., international insurers of trucks and buses, on December 16, and represents more than two decades of accident-free driving.

Milk and egg production so far this year are holding almost level with a year earlier despite the somewhat shorter feed supplies and rising farm costs.

## Pageant at Lutheran Church Sunday

The public is invited to attend a Christmas pageant, "Prophecy Fulfilled," at Grace Lutheran Church December 23, at 6:00 p. m. The pageant will be presented by the Junior Sunday School, Lutheran League and the church choir.

### Health Department Offices To Be Closed

The local Health Department will be closed for the Christmas holidays, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, December 24, 25 and 26. There will be no one in the Health Department on Saturday morning, December 22.

## Ministers Like Church Publicity

The Boone and Blowing Rock Ministerial Association desires to thank the personnel of the "Attend Church" feature of the Democrat each week. Appreciating your friendly cooperation and wishing you the Season's Greetings and a Happy New Year.

Yours truly,  
B. F. TROUTMAN, chairman.