

KING STREET BY ROB RIVERS

GOOD ENTERTAINMENT

The Barter Theatre players were brought to Boone last week by the BPW organization, and as usual, the production provided a high spot in the season's entertainment. "The Late Christopher Bean" was a splendid vehicle for the accomplished players who made up the company. Without attempting a review of the production, the superb performance of Owen Phillips as Dr. Haggitt and of Alma Lofness as Abby, stood out, and made every moment of the drama a highly enjoyable experience. Born of the great depression, the Barter Players originally moved into Abingdon, Va., headed by Robert Porterfield, and set up business, exchanging entertainment for vittles of most any kind. Soon the impoverished actors began to eat of the fruits of the southwest Virginia countryside, and as times improved, they began to handle a bit of money. Now the Porterfield enterprise has become the State Theatre of Virginia, and a number of troupes are traveling over the country, bringing big town stage plays to the residents of the small towns and villages. We have always been highly friendly to this Barter organization, but for whom, many of us would seldom have an opportunity to witness professional theatrical productions. The Barter Players have been highly successful. The enterprise was born of desperation, but lived to fill an important spot in the lives of the people of the rural areas. We always welcome an opportunity of attending one of the Porterfield plays. They provide top-notch entertainment, right on the home ground, and the wonder to us has always been that so many of our folks fail to take advantage of these visits of the Barter Players. We look forward sort of hungrily to each of their appearances.

"THE MESSIAH"

Christmas time hasn't officially arrived until Mrs. Virginia Wary Linney's Appalachian College Choir gets ready for its annual presentation of the Christmas section of Handel's immortal oratorio, "The Messiah." This production is an important part of the Christmas observance in Boone, and is eagerly looked forward to by the people of the immediate area, as well as of the country at large, since the local program is regularly broadcast nationwide over the Mutual system. Town and county people will have an opportunity to be present for the presentation next Sunday, while Sunday week, the nation can hear the voices of the noted choir in the most glorious of the Christmas musical productions. Mrs. Linney and her vocalists deserve the complete appreciation of the folks, for contributing so magnificently to the Christmas observance.

THE CHRISTMAS WIND-UP

Added signs of the approaching Christmastide are the renditions of "White Christmas" which began showing up on the radios and tv screens last week. The red wagons, and tricycles and bikes in the stores and on the sidewalks, and the doll babies, and all the other Santa Claus stuff, taking a more important place in King Street's scenery as the holy days draw near. And there are the bright lights strung across the street, and the Christmas trees in front of the old Democrat building, and the occasional Christmas card which is already showing up, and the good wishes of friends from a distance. And the children's eyes growing brighter and wider as their days drag by. Farmers bringing in their tobacco and selling it. Doing Christmas shopping and registering for the free auto and stuff. And the calendars in everybody's hands, with the pictures of the puppy dogs, the babbling brooks, the towering peaks or the beautiful woman, with no clothes hardly. But still the favorite in these parts is the old reliable "Ramon" calendar with its weather forecasts, the moon phases, and in-

Appalachian Choir To Present "The Messiah"



APPALACHIAN COLLEGE CHOIR

The sixty-five voice choir of Appalachian State Teachers College, under the direction of Virginia Wary Linney, will appear in its eleventh annual presentation of the Christmas portion of Handel's Messiah, Sunday evening, December 14, at 7 o'clock, in the College auditorium. It was also announced that the choir will be heard for the fourth consecutive year in a nation-wide broadcast over the facilities of the Mutual network Sunday, December 21, from 10:30 to 11:00 a. m. The program will originate in the studios of station WATA in Boone. Soloists for the performance will be Miss Helen Cole, Miss Alene Queen, Miss Jackie Snider, soprano; Miss Mary Alva White, contralto; James G. Blanton and Lawrence Phillips, tenors, and Ben Connell, bass. Assisting at the organ will be Mr. James Rooker of the college piano department, and Miss Reba Smith at the piano. The public is invited to attend.

\$100,000 Is Allotted To Boone-Linville Road

Governor W. Kerr Scott last week announced the allocation of one hundred thousand dollars for the construction of a new direct highway route from Linville, in Avery county, to Boone. The link in the new road, which presumably will follow the abandoned bed of the Linville River Railway, will be 5.9 miles in length and will run across Avery county from Linville in the direction of Foscoe in Watauga county. It has been reported that the Linville company will give the right of way for the new highway through their property without cost. The Boone to Linville highway had been a major project of the Boone Chamber of Commerce, several years ago, under the administration of Governor Cherry. Later Avery county leaders had joined in bringing the need for the road to the attention of Governor Scott.

Dr. I. G. Greer Honored With Birthday Gifts

Thomasville, Dec. 4.—Baptist Orphanage trustees honored their retiring president, Dr. I. G. Greer, today with a surprise shower of birthday gifts as a climax to a called meeting of the board at Mills Home. A huge cake inscribed "We Like Ike" was baked by Mrs. George McNeill, trustee from Morehead City. The occasion marked the close of Dr. Greer's official connection with the Board, but he will remain in an ex-official capacity as executive vice president, a newly created position. H. Cloyd Philpott, Lexington industrialist, succeeds him as president. Even though the accent was on fellowship and informality, several important items of business were transacted. The board approved the employment of Clyde Morris of Lincolnton as the first fulltime purchasing agent of the institution. He will move to Mills Home January 1. The board also increased the amount being paid to foster home parents from \$30 to \$40 a month for each child being cared for under the plan of off-campus child care. Four new trustees were introduced. They were Clyde Greene, Boone merchant and civic leader; Robert Gathlin, Raeford farmer, and chairman of the Hoke County Board of Education; Wil-

Mrs. Sarah Hartley Is Taken By Death

Mrs. Sarah Elizabeth Minton Hartley died at the home in Hickory December 1, after an illness of four weeks. She was 75. Funeral services were conducted in the West Hickory Baptist Church, with Rev. Fritz Hemphill and the Rev. R. K. Benfield officiating. Burial was in Houck's Chapel Cemetery. Mrs. Hartley, born in Watauga county May 12, 1877, a daughter of the late Richard and Myra Penley Minton, is survived by her husband, Joe Hartley, one son, Ralph Hartley of Boone; one daughter, Mrs. Richard Martin of Hickory; two brothers, Avery Minton of Hickory and Newton Minton of Vilas; three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. The deceased was a life-long member of Oak Grove Baptist church, Boone.

Wellborn Named Soil Supervisor

In an election held last week, Hayes Wellborn was elected to a three year term as District Soil Conservation supervisor for Watauga county. Other members of the committee are D. F. Greene and Henry Taylor.

Ralph Tugman Heads Local Freedom Crusade

The 1952 Crusade for Freedom got under way here Sunday with announcement that Ralph Tugman will serve as Watauga Chairman. Revealing the appointment, R. B. Potter, regional chairman, said the Crusade, now in its third year, needs funds to support and expand the hard-slugging, truth-carrying campaigns of Radio Free Europe and Radio Free Asia. "The growth and effectiveness of these freedom stations," the regional chairman declared, "has been phenomenal." In two years, thanks to the support of 25,000,000 Americans, Radio Free Europe has developed from a single, low-powered transmitter to a 13-station network, beaming the truth to Stalin's captives. Radio Free Asia, newest weapon in the war against Communist lies and distortion, hits hard at captive Asia. Chairman Potter said Communist reaction to the broadcasts has been bitter. "Vitriolic counter blasts, diplomatic protests to Washington and threats of reprisal against captive listeners attest to their effectiveness." Explaining the need for a stepped-up campaign of truth telling, Mr. Tugman went on to say that \$4,000,000 is a cheap enough price to pay for a cold war weapon that may in the end preclude the appalling costs of a hot war. Watauga county chairman Tugman announced that contributions may be sent to: Crusade for Freedom, in care Radio Station WATA, or to Alfred T. Adams, county treasurer.

W. Roby Greene Funeral Is Held

William Roby Greene of Deep Gap died at the age of 85 at his home Sunday, December 7. A retired farmer, Mr. Greene was widely known in this section and served for several years as chief of police of the town of Boone. Funeral services were held at 11 a. m. Wednesday, December 10, at Howard's Creek Baptist Church, conducted by the Rev. Ed Hodges, assisted by the Rev. W. C. Payne. He is survived by three sons and four daughters: Frank and Jack Greene, both of Deep Gap; Murray Greene, of Boone Route 1; Mrs. Frank Hodges, Boone Route 1; Mrs. John Bolick, Boone Route 3; Mrs. Larry Lane, Fresno, Ohio; and Mrs. Ralph Greene, Willoughby, Ohio.

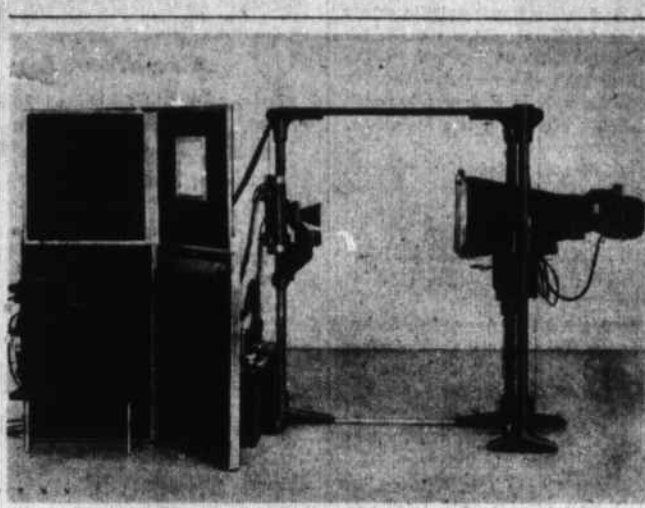
Empty Stocking Fund Contributions Sought

The empty stocking fund, through which the underprivileged children of the community and county are the recipients of Christmas cheer, is again being formed under the sponsorship of the Worthwhile Woman's Club, which seeks the cooperation of the people in making the worthy enterprise successful. Mrs. Mae Miller and Mrs. Claud Norris are co-chairmen of the project, and are soliciting clothing, toys and money with which to carry on the work. Those having toys to contribute are asked to deliver them to Mrs. Mabel Bingham Brown at the Building and Loan office at once, in order that they may be placed in condition in time for the gift distribution. Usable toys, and clothing with service left in it, are urgently needed, and the need for cash is of course great. Some three hundred and fifty children have already been listed as needing aid from the stocking fund, and those knowing of other children, who otherwise would have nothing at Christmas, are asked to supply their names. Donations of currency may be left either with Mrs. Brown or with Mrs. Herman W. Wilcox.

Christmas Trade Hits Stride In Gay City Stores

The Christmas shopping season is beginning to swing into stride here as merchants report increasing activity in the toy and gift departments. Varicolored Christmas lights have been installed along the street, augmenting the attractive decorations and displays of the individual stores and lending a festive Yuletide atmosphere to the business district as each dusk heralds a nearer approach to the joyous season of giving and good will. Keen interest is being manifested throughout the county and in other areas in the free prizes to be given away by the Merchants Association, and registrations at Boone stores are reported to be getting heavier with each succeeding day as the time for the drawing nears. First prize, a 1952 Chevrolet sedan from Andrews Chevrolet, Inc., will be awarded to the lucky holder on January 16, 1953. The date has been changed from December 24 in order to give all tobacco growers, some of whom will not bring their first load to Boone until after Christmas, a chance to win the automobile. Growers receive chances on the car and other prizes when they floor their tobacco. The drawing for second prize, an RCA-Victor television set from Swafford's Tire Store, and

PMA Election Votes Must Be In By 15th



PORTABLE X-RAY UNIT

Watauga To Aid In Buying X-Ray Unit

The Alleghany, Ashe and Watauga Tuberculosis Association is undertaking the purchase of a portable x-ray unit to be used in the three-county campaign against tuberculosis, and Watauga's share of the cost of the equipment is placed at \$3,600. The cost is divided between the counties on a population basis, and the equipment would be in use in Watauga county between four and five months of each year. Those who have received Christmas seals are urged to remit for them promptly so that Watauga can pay for her share of the x-ray and eliminate the payment of interest. Those who would like to make a gift separate from the seal sale should send the money to Miss Helen Underdown and thank it "For X-ray Fund."

Ballots in the community PMA elections must be in the county PMA office before December 15, according to Dwight Cable, chairman of the Watauga County PMA Committee. Ballots will be counted Monday, December 15, and the names of the committeemen elected will be announced as soon as the votes are counted. The delegates elected to attend the county convention will meet December 19 and elect a county committee consisting of a chairman, vice-chairman, member and two alternates. Ballots have been mailed to all eligible voters in each community. Any farmer—owner, operator, tenant or sharecropper—is eligible to vote who is on a farm that is participating in any program administered by the elected farmer-committees of the Production and Marketing Administration. Eligible farmers who do not receive a ballot within a reasonable time before the closing date are urged to get in touch with the county PMA committee. Chairman Cable emphasizes that the first responsibility in farm program administration rests with the farmers themselves in electing the most capable and best qualified committeemen to administer those programs. "This is especially significant this year when agriculture has such a great responsibility in producing crops and products to meet the Nation's defense requirements. No farmer who is eligible to vote should let December 15 pass without casting his ballot."

Jonas Asks For Data On Local Dam Project

Charles Raper Jonas, Republican congressman-elect from the tenth North Carolina district, was the guest of honor Tuesday at the regular monthly meeting of the Boone Chamber of Commerce. Introduced by President H. W. Wilcox, the Lincolnton attorney said the main purpose of his visit was to secure information on the proposed Watauga River power dam project. Touching briefly on politics, he said that every two or four years everybody does a lot of rooting and working for his own party, but after the elections are over, we all settle-down and work for common goals in a spirit of cooperation. He added that this spirit of unity is the paramount need of the new Republican national administration. At the conclusion of Jonas' remarks, President Wilcox, after declaring that Watauga County needs "more power and cheaper power", called upon County Agent L. E. Tuckwiller, who pointed up the need for electricity in more rural homes in the county, emphasizing that the proposed dam would supply the necessary power. Clyde R. Greene stated that the State Farm Bureau has formally petitioned the Tennessee Valley Authority to construct the dam, thereby going on record as actively supporting the project. It was also reported that TVA engineers have been to the Beech Creek site of the proposed dam to investigate titles to property, see about buying leases, etc., and have drilled a number of explorations.

Watauga Soldier Missing In Crash Army Airplane

Ronald Rominger, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dewey Rominger of Rominger, N. C., has been missing in the crash of an army airplane since Sunday, according to information reaching the family. Reports indicate that Mr. Rominger was en route from Omaha, Nebraska to some point in California, and that the plane crashed in the mountains of California during the severe storms of the week end. Information is that the wreckage had been spotted from the air but that rescue operations had not been completed. Eleven men were said to have been aboard the ill-fated ship. Mr. Rominger has been in the army for eleven years. Mrs. Rominger, the former Miss Georgia Ward, also of Watauga county, has been with him. There's no way to make paying your income tax enjoyable, but the State College Extension Service has prepared a publication that may make the job easier.

Rites Are Held For Mrs. R. P. Moore

By MRS. LUCILE LETT
Blowing Rock, Dec. 3—Funeral services for Mrs. Roblee P. Moore were held on Wednesday afternoon of last week at First Baptist Church here with Rev. Mr. Hollingsworth, pastor of First Baptist church of Boone, officiating. Reins-Sturdivant Funeral Home had charge of arrangements. Mrs. Moore, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. P. Coffey, died early Tuesday of last week, after having been seriously ill for two weeks. She was 49 years of age and had been in ill health for many years. Friends of the Baptist and Presbyterian churches served as flower bearers and honorary pall bearers. Active pall bearers were Doss Keller, George Sudderth, Jr., Clarence Greene, Johnny Broyhill, Johnny Walser, and Howard Holshouser, Jr. Burial was in Blowing Rock cemetery. Survivors include the parents, and the following sisters and brothers: Mrs. Rosella Willis, Mrs. Clara Thompson, Mrs. Anne Brown, Mrs. Virginia Bolick, Mrs. Luda Gragg, Paul, Glenn, and Justin.

Funds Sought For Grandfather Home

As usual, local friends of the Grandfather Orphans Home at Banner Elk, are soliciting funds, with which to contribute to the happiness of the children of the institution at Christmas time. The cause is an especially worthy one since most of the children being cared for are our own people, and perhaps merit first consideration. Those willing to make a contribution to the happiness of these youngsters at Christmas time may leave their donations with Guy Hunt at Hunt's Department Store; Rob Rivers at the Democrat office or W. H. Gragg at the Watauga Building & Loan Association. A generous response to this need will be highly appreciated.

W. Reeves Billings Dies Saturday

William Reeves Billings, 82, of Vilas, died December 6 in Watauga Hospital. He had been ill for some time and a patient in the hospital about two days. Funeral services were held at the home at 11 a. m. Tuesday, December 9, with the Rev. Ronda Earp in charge of the rites. He was assisted by the Rev. Ed G. Farthing, the Rev. C. O. Vance, and the Rev. Victor Trivette. Burial was in the Adams cemetery. He is survived by two sons, Lester and Frank Billings, both of Vilas; and two daughters, Mrs. A. A. Greer of Vilas, and Mrs. J. P. Farthing of Johnson City, Tenn.