

# Christmas Tree Business Flourishing In Mountains

Production of Fraser fir, white pine, Scotch pine, red cedar, Arizona cypress, white spruce, Colorado blue spruce, red spruce, Norway spruce, and Douglas fir trees for the Christmas tree industry in North Carolina has flourished in the past decade, primarily because of favorable soil, topographic, water, and elevation conditions.

North Carolina is exceedingly fortunate in having the natural ability to produce the Fraser fir, found in the Appalachian highlands and considered by many as the most desirable species for use in the Christmas tree industry.

The Fraser fir was first discovered in the high peaks of western North Carolina by John Fraser (1750-1811), a Scotch nurseryman. This tree has all the characteristics of a superior Christmas tree. It retains its needles, which are blunt on the ends. It has strong limbs, a dark blue-green color and fragrant odor. Like most other trees, it must be pruned or shaped during its growth to maturity, which usually requires eight to twelve years.

Fraser fir planting stock is raised at nurseries operated by the North Carolina Forest Service, as well as at commercial nurseries. In addition, many seedlings growing wild in the woods are transplanted to beds and later to plantations.

Your local county Forest Service employee or Extension Agent is best qualified to assist you in deciding what to plant, where to plant it, and how to secure the planting stock.

The market for sales of Christmas trees in North Carolina is widespread, especially in the larger, urban areas. A demand for practically all species exists, in most cases, the marketing of North Carolina-grown Christmas trees within the State is in its infancy, confined largely to small lots and individual retail sales.

tion which is constantly working to broaden markets and improve production methods. A Christmas Tree expert is employed by the N. C. State Extension Service. In addition, the North Carolina Forest Service publishes a bulletin annually which lists the names of producers and the production of a more desirable tree with less effort.

The Forest Service will assist potential growers in deciding what species would be most suitable on his land. The Forest Service is also conducting research in the field of superior Christmas trees of various species which would result in the production of a more desirable tree with less effort.

### Explorer Post III Formally Reorganized

Explorer Post III-Boy Scouts of America sponsored by the First Presbyterian Church of Boone was formally reorganized this week according to Phillip D. Thompson, Scout Executive of the Watauga District.

The Post is under the leadership of Ronnie Sams and Richard C. Culyer III, co-advisors.

Wayne Richardson will serve as chairman of the post committee which includes Howard M. Edmisten, Otis F. Strother, Carl Fidler, and Joe H. Hartley.

Explorer members are Bill Bumbaugh, Andy High, Larry Norris, Craig Rigby, John Simmons, Daniel Watkins, Grover Wilson and Terry Shirley.

### Recent Births

Mr. and Mrs. Kenny Presnell, Sugar Grove, boy, Dec. 7.  
Mr. and Mrs. Dale Winkler, Rt. 2, Boone, girl, Dec. 10.  
Sergeant and Mrs. Ned Perry, Villas, boy, Dec. 10.  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Snyder, Blowing Rock, boy, Dec. 11.

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## L. Richardson Preyer To Run For House Seat

L. Richardson Preyer, 48, who left the federal district court bench to become an unsuccessful candidate for governor in 1964 has announced his candidacy for the Democratic nomination for governor nomination for Congress from the 8th District.

Preyer, now a senior vice president of the statewide North Carolina National Bank, is a member of the family which controls the Richardson Merrill Co., pharmaceutical manufacturers. His grandfather was founder of the Vicks Chemical Co. in Greensboro and his father was president.

He will seek the place being vacated by Rep. Horace R. Koenigs, another Democrat from Greensboro, who announced last week that he would not run again after serving since 1960.

Democrats of the district are trying to head off any primary clash in preparation for an expected strong challenge next November from William Osteen, also from Guilford County, a former Republican minority leader in the state House of Representatives. Osteen announced Monday that he will seek the seat.

Other possible Democratic candidates have been mentioned, perhaps the strongest being State Sen. Ed Kemp of High Point.

Preyer was No. 2 man in a three-way race for the Democratic nomination for governor in 1964. The order was Dan Moore first, Preyer second and Beverly Lake third. But in the support to Moore, who then won handily, Gov. Moore has since appointed Lake, former law professor at Wake Forest University, to the State Supreme Court.

**ON SOCIAL SECURITY**  
The Senate Finance Committee has voted to increase Social Security payroll deductions from 4.4 to 5 per cent next year. The maximum base would be from \$6,600 to \$8,800.



**WEATHER WORRIES**—Wet, overcast scenes like this one kept rain slickers and rubber boots in vogue over the weekend. The rains came about noon Saturday and by Sunday morning added up to .36 an inch. Monday morning's reading showed an additional 1.38 and Tuesday morning showed that another 1.22 inches had fallen. The rain stopped sometime Monday night, so in three days, nearly three inches had rained. A reading of the mercury Friday night showed a frosty 33 degrees, but during the rainy period, the mercury moved between a high of 50 and a low of 39. These December readings are unusual enough that they can't last long. (Staff photo)

## Chamber Commerce News Notes

The annual meeting of the Northwest Development Association was held in Elkin, Thursday evening, at 7 p. m. Some 35 from Watauga County attended. The three appointed representatives from Watauga County are: Prof. Nollie H. Shelton, Education; Edgar D. Green, Agriculture; Fred Graag, Industry. The President of the Association, B. Eugene Seals, gave a most inspiring message, citing the accomplishments of the Association for the past year and it's hopes for the future. Guest speaker was Dr. J. F. Scates, President of Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, N. C. Dr. Scates is an accomplished speaker, versed in so many subjects. He emphasized the potential of the 17-county area and inspired the group to carry on to develop its assets. Neil Bolton, secretary-treasurer of the Association, presented the awards.

The Chamber of Commerce will publish early in 1968 a Business and Professional Directory which will list the services of the businesses and professions of the area available to residents, tourists, etc. This service should be of value in helping to direct people since each business and profession will be listed in its respective category. This will apply to the business and professional groups only. No individual members will be listed. Business or professional membership does are \$25 (minimum) per year. Any individual members who wish to be listed in a business or professional group should immediately contact the Chamber of Commerce. These directories will be distributed prominently at service stations and other places of business throughout the area, thus being made available to the general public.

Some of the stores will remain open for business from 9 a. m. to 9 p. m. on Monday through Friday until Christmas. Regular hours will be observed on Saturday.

Estimate of foe's strength revised downward.  
U. S. Soviet air service to begin soon.

# IMPORTANT TAX NOTICE

If you want to deduct your 1967 Watauga County taxes on your income tax returns, pay them in 1967.

Pay before January 1 and save with this deduction on your income tax. If you owe county taxes for prior years, you can deduct them if paid in 1967. Interest rate on past due taxes is 6 percent. Pay now and save.

**Watauga County Tax Department**  
JAMES VINES, Tax Collector

## ASU Is Designated Test Center For National Teacher Exams

Appalachian State University has been designated as a test center for administering the National Teacher Examinations Feb. 3, Thomas S. Harrill, Acting Director of Testing, announced today.

College seniors preparing to teach and teachers applying for positions in school systems, which encourage or require applicants to submit their scores on the National Teacher Examinations along with their other credentials are eligible to take the tests. The examinations are prepared and administered by Educational Testing Service, Princeton, N. J.

The designation of Appalachian State University as a test center for these examinations will give prospective teachers in this area an opportunity to compare their performance on the examinations with candidates throughout the county who take the tests, Harrill said.

### Mrs. Becky Sue Roark Finishes Work at ASU

Mrs. Becky Sue Roark, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Russell, last week completed her course study at Appalachian State University and will receive her diploma at the university's spring convocation. Mrs. Roark and her husband, Jack, are parents of a daughter, Kathy, 14 months old, and a son, Steve, who is one month old. The children's grandmother is Mrs. Ethel Wyke of 155 S. Water St. Mrs. Roark is a graduate of Appalachian High School.

Box 911, Princeton, N. J. 08540. Prospective teachers planning to take the tests should obtain their Bulletins of Information promptly.

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BELAIR 2 DOOR—Heater, standard transmission.

'65 Ford Falcon \$1195  
2 DOOR—Heater, automatic transmission.

'64 Chevelle . \$1295  
CONVERTIBLE COUPE—Radio and heater, white sidewalls, 4 speed transmission.

'64 Ford . . . \$1195  
GALAXIE 500 SPORT COUPE—Radio and heater, white sidewalls, standard transmission.

'64 Volkswagen \$895  
CONVERTIBLE SEDAN—Radio and heater, white sidewalls.

'63 Olds 88 . \$1350  
HOLIDAY SEDAN—Radio and heater, air conditioned, power steering, power brakes, power seat.

'63 Chevy . . \$1095  
IMPALA SPORT COUPE—Radio and heater, powerglide, power steering, white sidewalls.

'63 Chevy . . \$1095  
IMPALA 4 DOOR SEDAN—Radio and heater, powerglide, white sidewalls.

'63 Olds F85 . \$895  
DELUXE 4 DOOR—Radio and heater, white sidewalls, automatic transmission.

'63 Chevy II \$750  
4-DOOR STATION WAGON Heater, standard transmission.

'63 Chevy \$795  
BELAIR 4-DOOR Hardtop, standard transmission.

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