

LOCAL HAPPENINGS

—Merry Christmas,
 —Don't forget to write it 1941.
 —Our next issue will be 1941.
 —This issue is being published on Tuesday evening, Dec. 24th in order to give the force Christmas holidays.
 —May your holidays be pleasant and happy.
 —We should be thankful that old Santa will not be hampered by war in the United States.

—Louisburg merchants enjoyed quite a nice business during the week before Christmas, which is evidence that they are offering as good bargains as anywhere else.
 —The FRANKLIN TIMES is requested to state that the names of W. C. Strowd, Mrs. R. G. Bailey, Miss Alberta Davis, Miss Louella Jarman and W. B. Barrow were left out of the Red Cross list last week. This, of course, was inadvertent, and is regretted.

—Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Rowe announced the wedding of their daughter, Annie Mae, to Herbert Lee Gupton, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Gupton, of Henderson, N. C., on Friday, Dec. 20, 1940. They will make their home in Henderson, N. C.

HISTORICAL

By REV. E. H. DAVIS

(A continuation of a paper read by Rev. E. H. Davis at a recent Memorial Service at the Louisburg Methodist Church).

The first recorded sermon by any Methodist minister in town of Louisburg was by Wm. Ormond who was assigned to the Tar River Circuit with Morris Howe for the year 1791—"that ancient and good circuit of Tar"—as Bishop Asbury, in his prime, called it. Ormond has this entry in his diary—Sat. Dec. 17, 1791: Snowy Season. I come to James Hunt's and preached from "For Zion's Sake," etc. and then came to Louisburg and preached from "By Grace are ye saved through faith, etc.," and tarried at Sister Walks. When Conference met at Green Hill's Jan. 20, 1792 (the second Conference there) Ormond stopped at Col. Seawell's and was in Louisburg, Jan. 22. Jan 23 he returned to Bro. Hill's and did some business with Bro. Bowen the P. E. and set out for Goshen Circuit to which he had just been appointed—in Sampson County. A complete roster of all the preachers assigned to the Tar River Circuit from its formation in 1778 to the present day may be found in the Minutes of the Va. and N. C. Conferences, all of this territory being part of the Va. Conference until 1836 when the N. C. Conference came into being. The date of the erection of the first Methodist Church in Louisburg is involved in some obscurity—though this much is definitely known—its erection antedated that of any other church in the town and its location was at or near the Western terminus of Nash Street as that street now (1940) appears on the map of the town. While we have not yet been able to find any public record of either the purchase or sale of such property so located yet other recorded deeds transferring real estate in that section made such references to this particular lot and church as to leave no doubt as to the location. To illustrate a deed recorded in 1840 describes a lot on West boundary now Elm Street as being above the Methodist Church lot. Again Book 31, page 258 Whitaker to Collins—lot on Western Back line (Elm St.) opposite Methodist Church. Again Book 27, page 22 Battle to Baker with description telling of Methodist Church on Western Back line. The church erected there in the early years of the last century stood for a generation not only as a meeting place for the Methodist but as the only place of public worship in the growing village. A movement for a new building on a new and more nearly central site culminated in 1850 in the purchase of the lot on which this building stands. The deed for the same lies before me. The Grantor is Margaret C. Patterson and the Trustees for the church in whom the property is vested are A. H. Ray, Joseph A. Whitaker, Daniel S. Hill, Joseph B. Littlejohn, John Nicholas Massenburg, David Thomas, John G. King, Peyton J. Brown and Thomas K. Thomas—their heirs and successors, in fee simple forever to and for the use and benefit of said society and congregation in the worship of Almighty God. The celebration of divine services, the administration of the sacra-

EUROPEAN WAR NEWS

Rome, Dec. 23.—Only a few thousand of Italy's 50,000,000 people heard British Prime Minister Winston Churchill's radio appeal for the overthrow of Benito Mussolini. It was stated tonight, but Fascist quarters said it probably will be published in newspapers" along with proper comment.

Churchill's appeal to the Italian people, the King and the armed forces came as the Fascist press was assuring the people that Italy will obtain ultimate victory and that "England deceives herself" if she believes she can best Italy to her knees by the Libyan offensive.

Today's Italian war communique claimed the sinking of a British auxiliary cruiser by a Fascist torpedo-carrying plane, a stubborn defense of Italy's Bardia base in Libya and Italian counter-assaults on the Albanian front which were said to have inflicted heavy losses on the Greeks.

According to Fascist quarters, "a maximum of a few thousand Italians" heard Churchill's broadcast, mostly journalists and Fascist party leaders.

Several hundred Italians, mostly government, military and party workers whose job it is to check all foreign radio programs, heard the appeal, but it was said to have been wasted insofar as the rank-and-file of the people is concerned.

Forbidden By Decree

The Italian people are forbidden by decree from listening to foreign broadcasts of any kind, except in special instances, and many of them regard such tuning in on stations abroad as unpatriotic.

London, Dec. 23.—Prime Minister Winston Churchill appealed directly to the Italian people tonight to cast off Benito Mussolini, whom he termed bitterly "the criminal" who, "after 18 years of unbridled power, has led your country to the horrid verge of ruin."

Alternating between cajolery and blunt words in his broadcast address, Churchill said: "We are only at the beginning of this somber tale. x x x Presently we shall be forced to come to much closer grips. Surely the time has come when the Italian monarchy and the people who guard the sacred center of Christendom should have a word to say upon these awe-inspiring issues."

"Surely the Italian army which has fought so bravely on many occasions past, but now evidently has no heart for the job, should take some care of the life and future of Italy."

Recalling that Italy and Britain never had been foes until now and were allies in the last war against Germany, Churchill said that "although the institutions you adopted after that war were not akin to ours and diverged x x x we liked each other, we got along together."

"And now we are at war; now we are condemned to work for each other's ruin; your aviators have tried to cast their bombs upon London; our armies are tearing and will tear your African Empire to shreds and tatters."

Two Choices

Recounting his own efforts to prevent the war between Italy and the British Empire, Churchill told the Italians they face two choices:

"It is to stand up to the battery of the whole British Empire on the sea, in the air and in Africa and in the vigorous counter-attack of the Greek nation; or, on

the other hand, to call in Attila over the Brenner Pass with his hordes of ravenous soldiers and his gangs of Gestapo policemen to occupy, hold down and protect the Italian people for whom he and his Nazi followers cherish the most bitter and outspoken contempt that is on record between the two races.

"There is where one man and one man only has led you; and there I leave this unfolding story until the day comes—as come it will—when the Italian nation will once more take a hand in shaping its own fortunes.

Athens, Dec. 23.—Greek forces tonight swept closer to the Albanian seaport of Valona after seizing Italy's coastal base of Khimara and capturing its entire garrison of crack Blackshirt troops whom Benito Mussolini had exalted as "the cement of the Fascist revolution."

An official communique announced that the little seaport of Khimara 30 miles south of Valona had fallen at dusk Sunday after a terrific 48-hour bombardment of its defenses and an assault by Greek Evzone warriors, who swept down into its streets with bayonets after encircling the town.

Tonight the Greeks, whose latest victory in their counter-invasion of Albania touched off wild demonstrations of joy in the streets of ancient Athens, held more than 45 miles of Albania's Adriatic coast and were reported driving steadily upon Valona through a rugged mountain pass.

The battalion of Blackshirts which surrendered at Khimara consisted of 800 men and 30 officers, every one a picked veteran of the wars in Ethiopia and Spain. It was said.

Flown to Albania

They had been flown to Albania within the past two weeks—perhaps aboard German Junkers transport planes—to bolster the demoralized Fascist forces, according to an official statement.

Fierce air battles raged along the Albanian front, including perhaps the biggest aerial dog-fight thus far. British planes encountered a force of Fascist bombers over Argyrocastron, were attacked by 50 Italian fighter planes; then shot down eight, and possibly 11 of the Italian aircraft although the British were outnumbered five to one, the R. A. F. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

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 And Friends
 A
 VERY
MERRY CHRISTMAS
 AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR
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Father—See that you leave the party at a reasonable hour. No more coming home with the milkman, young lady.
 Daughter—Of course not, Dad. He won't be there.

Harold—How's the wife, George?
 George—She's just had quinsy.
 Harold—How many is that you've got now

Market supplies of hogs will be substantially smaller next year than in 1940, but supplies of cattle may be larger, predicts the U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Husband (snapping angrily)—Well, at any rate, I'm a man of my word. I do call a spade a spade.
 Wife—Maybe, but you don't call a club a club; you call it working late.

Friend—You're a Scotchman. How is it you don't play golf?
 Sandy—Oh, I used to but I gave it up several years ago.
 Friend—Why?
 Sandy—I lost my ball.

A noteworthy sign which reads: "Slow Men Working Here."

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A SUBSCRIPTION TO THIS NEWSPAPER

GREETINGS
 THAT YOU AND YOURS MAY ENJOY THE MOST DELIGHTFUL **CHRISTMAS** YOU HAVE EVER HAD IS THE WISH OF YOUR OLD FRIEND **John W. Harris** at **CASH & CARRY MARKET** Nash Street Louisburg, N. C.

Who thanks you for your liberal patronage and assures you he will have a full and complete line of Meats, etc., continuously, following the holidays.