

Southern Baptists Set Baptism Record In '48

Southern Baptists set a baptism record in 1948, with reports indicating that the denomination's 26,823 churches immersed 312,246 persons during the year.

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Porter Routh, statistical officer of the Southern Baptist Convention, said that the baptisms pushed the membership of the churches to 6,491,981. Sunday school enrollment jumped more than 300,000 during the year to bring the total enrolled in weekly Bible study to 4,308,374.

Gifts for all causes channeled through the churches reached \$156,605,521, a gain of almost \$25,000,000 over 1947. Of the total given \$124,855,222 was used for local church work, and \$31,750,299 was used for missions, education, and benevolences.

Franklin County farmers are learning in increasing numbers that winter grazing is the most economical method of producing swine, says County Agent Walter Fuller.

20 Per Cent Pay Raise Is Granted All State Workers

Raleigh, March 3. — The Legislature today rushed through to passage a bill granting teachers and state employees a 20 per cent pay boost for this year.

The increase is retroactive to last October 1 and will cost the state approximately \$15,000,000. The measure becomes effective upon ratification by the speaker of the house and the president of the senate, a formality expected to take place tomorrow.

The senate wrangled for a while over three proposed amendments to the measure. Then it killed the amendments, passed the measure unanimously and rushed it to the house. There the house sent it through to final passage without debate.

Earlier, the house got into lengthy debate over a measure which would have permitted licensed automobile drivers to get their drivers' licenses renewed without taking an examination. The bill finally was killed by a 58 to 8 vote.

During the debate, Representative Roy A. Taylor of Duncombe reminded the house that the law requiring inspection of motor vehicles had been repealed and asserted it appeared the Legislature was bent on repealing the state's entire highway safety program.

Representative Larry I. Moore of Wilson, chairman of the House Finance Committee, reported action of the joint finance committee yesterday in giving a favorable report to the biennial revenue bill. The measure was set for house consideration tomorrow. It would provide about \$200,000 a year more revenue than the original measure proposed by the Advisory Budget Commission.

Red Cross Acts On Vets' Claims

Of the more than 6,500,000 compensation and pension claims on file with the Veterans Administration last year, the American Red Cross held power of attorney in more than 1,000,000 cases to act for the veteran or his heirs, local chapter officials asserted here today.

They emphasized that the organization is ready to give immediate assistance in the preparation, filling and development of claims for government benefits that may be due a veteran or his dependents.

Chapter workers are kept advised by Red Cross national headquarters of the laws enacted by Congress and the interpretation of them by the Veterans Administration, it was pointed out. These chapter workers know exactly what information must go into the various applications, and to what office they should be sent.

Furthermore, Red Cross claims service field directors are stationed in each of the 84 offices in the United States, Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico and the Philippines, the chapter added. Approximately 85 per cent of these claims service representatives are former servicemen and they have been specially trained for their jobs. Thousands of veterans the country over have successfully presented their claims before the various VA boards through these representatives, it was said.

During the past year they handled approximately 1,291,700 cases, it was pointed out. With chapter workers the country ever ready to obtain background information that they may be needed to round out a claim, the Red Cross is able to serve the veteran or his dependents speedily and, equally important, efficiently, the chapter officials asserted.

High Court Rules States May Impose Union Curbs

WASHINGTON, March, 7 — The Supreme Court ruled today that the states may impose tougher curbs on "union security" contracts than are provided in federal laws.

The court split 7-2 in holding that neither the Taft-Hartley Act nor the Wagner Act which preceded it bans states from regulating union security agreements.

The majority said the only limit is that "the state shall not impose a policy inconsistent with national policy."

Civilian per capita consumption of food in the United States this year is expected to continue at about the 1948 level, which was 12 per cent above the pre-war average. Retail food prices are likely to average somewhat lower in 1949 than in the past year, when they set a new high. However, no sharp decline is anticipated.

Eleven From Wilkes Students At State

RALEIGH — The winter term enrollment in the School of Engineering at N. C. State College includes 11 students from Wilkes County, a survey of the institution's registration figures indicated today.

Dean J. H. Lampe announced that the School of Engineering now has a total enrollment of 2,609 students, including 1,823 veterans of World War II.

The Mechanical Engineering Department attracted the largest number of students with an enrollment of 743. The Electrical Engineering Department drew 656 students, and the Civil Engineering Department registered

470. Other departments in the College's School of Engineering show the following enrollment: General 301; Industrial, 202; Chemical, 183; Ceramic, 76; Geological, 26; and General, 18. There are also 86 graduate students.

The following students from Wilkes County are enrolled in the School: Vernon C. Broyhill, Boomer; Kern E. Church North Wilkesboro; Joseph L. Clements, North Wilkesboro; Royal R. Eudally, Wilkesboro; George S. Forester, North Wilkesboro; Frederick C. Miller, North Wilkesboro; William J. Moore, North Wilkesboro; Rufus W. Moseley, Oakwoods; Thomas F. Nelson, North Wilkesboro; Rex E. Wood, North Wilkesboro; John R. Wright Wilkesboro.

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