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# The Skyland Post

**ASHE COUNTY**  
 is the air - conditioned section of North Carolina whose altitude ranges from 3,000 to 5,600 feet above sea level. 25 miles of the PARKWAY run through the county.

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THURSDAY JANUARY 13, 1938 WEST JEFFERSON, N. C.

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## BRIEF NEWS

FROM THE  
 Daily Headlines

### JAPS TAKE TSINGTAO AND HEAD FOR SUCHOW

Shanghai, Jan. 11.—A renewed push toward Suchow, strategic rail junction north of Nanking, appeared imminent today following the bloodless occupation of Tsingtao, principal port of rich Shaantung province.

Without firing a shot, Japanese naval forces occupied Tsingtao yesterday, 10 days after the city's defenders had fled leaving acres of dynamited, burned and looted Japanese buildings. Destruction of Japanese properties was estimated at \$100,000,000.

There was no sign of opposition as 400 marines entered the defenseless city after an 18-mile march from Shatzekow. Shortly after they arrived, troop ships entered the harbor and began disembarking additional marines.

### SUGGESTS CO-OPERATION AS RECESSION'S CURE

Washington, Jan. 10.—Industrial peace and effective co-operation of management and workers earners was held today by Lamont du Pont, president of E. I. du Pont de Nemours and company, to be one of the greatest requirements of the present business situation which, however, will not be best attained by complicated new legislation.

Appearing before the senate unemployment and relief investigating committee, Mr. du Pont, who expressed his belief in high wages, and the increased buying power resulting therefrom, declared also that business will recover only in an atmosphere of confidence in private industry, and a wider understanding that the main burden of re-employment fall on industry and not on the government. He denied that business had gone "on strike" against the administration.

### \$22,000 LINDBERGH REWARD MONEY PAID

Trenton, N. J., Jan. 10.—Gov. Harold G. Hoffman today gave nine men and a woman \$22,000 of New Jersey's \$25,000 reward for capture of the Lindbergh baby murderer. He reserved the remainder for more than 100 others and reiterated his belief the case was not completely solved with the execution of Bruno Richard Hauptmann.

The Bronx service station manager, Walter Lyle, now of Elizabeth, N. J., who jotted down Hauptmann's automobile license number on a \$10 bill—part of the \$50,000 which Col. Charles A. Lindbergh paid in a futile effort to regain his child—was awarded \$7,500.

### KING WINTER AGAIN DESCENDS IN ASHE COUNTY

After three weeks of excellent weather, king winter is descending on the Blue Ridge. When the paper went to press last night, snow was falling fast and indications were that it would continue throughout the night. A three-inch snow fell Monday night. Before the week end is over, Ashe county may experience another 6-inch snowfall.

### VANCE B. PENNINGTON COUNTY'S 1ST ARRIVAL

Vance Bernard Pennington, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ambrose Pennington, of the Ashland community, was the first child born in Ashe county in 1938, according to entries made at The Skyland Post office and to the child's parents goes a one year's subscription to The Post.

Vance Bernard was born at 5:15 o'clock on the morning of January 1, only 5 hours and 15 minutes after the arrival of infant '38. Dr. W. J. Robertson was the attending physician.

To the first couple married in 1938, The Post is still ready to present a "wedding present".

## Author of "Shadows Slant North"



MARY BLEDSOE GILLET—Mrs. Gillett describes Ashe county and many of its people in her popular new book, "Shadows Slant North", which was published recently. The author is a native of Nathan's Creek.

## Native Citizen Writes Novel About Ashe And Adjoining Area

"Shadows Slant North" Is The Title of Mary Bledsoe Gillett's New Book.

Mrs. Mary Bledsoe Gillett, a native of this county and now a resident of Charlotte, has written the first novel ever published with a setting laid in Ashe county and with characters who are Ashe county people. The title of this new book that has already been widely publicized and praised by reviewers throughout the country, is "Shadows Slant North". It contains 398 pages and is published by Lathrop, Lee and Shepard, an old established New York book publishing company. It was released by the publishers last November and is enjoying an excellent sale all over the nation. Three printings were ordered before publication, which is rather unusual.

The author, whose maiden name is Mary Bledsoe, is the daughter of the late John T. Bledsoe and Mrs. Sallie Tulbert Bledsoe. One of her grandfathers was Jesse Bledsoe, a former state representative who died several years ago.

She was born at Nathan's Creek, where the principal setting of her book is laid, and lived there until she was about 12 years old. At that time her father sold his farm and moved to Texas, where he lived until his death some time ago. Her mother, however, is still living at Clyde, Texas, as well as two or three of her brothers and sisters.

She has a number of relatives living in the county, including J. N. Tulbert, of West Jefferson, an uncle; Bill Bledsoe, of Roan's Creek; Mrs. Will Miller and Mrs. Mack Absher, cousins, who live at Nathan's Creek.

About 5 years ago she returned to the county and taught school at Nathan's Creek for one year and in 1928 she was a member of the summer school faculty at A. S. T. C. in Boone. She also taught at Blowing Rock.

Her husband is Rupert Gillett, assistant news editor of The Charlotte Observer, and they frequently visit Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Hurt, their close friends, at Nathan's Creek.

Mrs. Gillett graduated from the University of Texas and took special courses at two or three other universities. For several years she did newspaper work in Richmond, Va., and later was assistant editor of The C. & O. Railroad magazine. While she was connected in this capacity, she won a trip to Europe in a writing contest and for three months, toured all over many European countries. Interesting articles describing this trip appeared in the railroad magazine.

She has also contributed a number of articles to national magazines, including a story called, "The Hidden People of the Blue Ridge", (Continued on Page Five)

## Bumgarner Fell, Broke His Neck, & Died Instantly

Fatal Fall Took Place At His Home Near Grassy Creek Last Saturday Night.

### BURIED MONDAY

Phil Bumgarner, age 53, one of the best automobile mechanics and blacksmith workers Ashe county ever produced, fell, broke his neck and died almost instantly at his home in the Grassy Creek community last Saturday night.

Members of the family stated that Mr. Bumgarner, who lives about a mile from the Grassy Creek post office, was apparently intoxicated when he returned home about 11 o'clock Saturday night. Immediately after entering the house, they said, he decided to go back out to the car to see his friend who brought him home. He stumbled and fell off of the three-foot front porch and died without making a struggle.

Dr. Waddell, who examined the body, stated that death came so suddenly as a result of a broken neck and heart failure.

Funeral services were held at the home by Rev. W. E. Denney Monday. He is survived by his wife and 6 children.

## Congressman Doughton Believes Recession Will Be Over Soon

Washington, D. C.—Following a bedroom conference with President Roosevelt at the White House early last week, Chairman Robert L. Doughton stated that he was very much encouraged over the outlook for business and predicted the present recession would fade away as fast as it came.

The veteran North Carolina senator did not tell what he learned at the White House that gave him such an optimistic feeling regarding early recovery.

Doughton in recent weeks has not been overly encouraged as to the chances of checking the recession and he has indicated that government and business should adopt a more cooperative spirit. Today he said:

"Based on what the president told me and the situation in general, I am confident business is going to pick up and I feel sure we will soon experience full recovery from the recession. I am very much encouraged."

Rep. Doughton, along with Rep. Vinson (D., Ky.), conferred with the president at breakfast time this

## First National Bank Enjoyed A Successful Year

Total Assets Increased Over \$22,000. Annual 12 Per Cent Dividend Paid.

### RE-ELECT OFFICERS

The First National Bank, which weathered the depression with one of the best records of any financial institution in the state, enjoyed another successful year in 1937, according to reports made by J. L. Segraves, cashier, at the annual stockholders' meeting held here Tuesday morning.

The bank is paying a 12 per cent dividend to its stockholders, just as it did every year during the depression. A comparison of the annual statement, published elsewhere in this issue, with the statement for 1936, shows the bank's total assets climbed from \$542,874.91 in 1936, to \$565,535.69 in 1937, an increase of over \$22,000.00.

Total deposits in the bank increased from \$483,546.77 in 1936 to \$499,200.63 in 1937, a gain of over \$15,000.00. The bank also built up its cash reserve nearly \$10,000.00 and undivided profits were increased over \$3,000.00.

The stockholders re-elected the directors and chose Dr. B. E. Reeves to serve as chairman of the board. The directors are: J. J. Thomas, Dr. R. C. Ray, Dr. B. E. Reeves, T. C. Eowie and E. A. McNeill. The directors then re-elected the same officers, Mr. Thomas, president; Mr. McNeill, vice-president; Dr. B. E. Reeves, vice-president; J. L. Segraves, cashier; Lilly A. Segraves, assistant cashier and Don L. Francis, assistant cashier.

All of the directors and officers were present except Mr. Thomas, who is now in Florida on a vacation. The stockholders requested the cashier to write Mr. Thomas and express to him their deep appreciations for his long and faithful service to the bank as president and director.

## Miller Johnson Exonerated From Accident Charges

Case Dismissed By Magistrate H. C. Tucker. Charges Outgrowth Of Wreck.

In a hearing before Magistrate H. C. Tucker last Saturday, Miller Johnson was exonerated from all charges growing out of the fatal accident which occurred near Jefferson before Christmas.

Johnson was charged with driving a car while intoxicated, reckless driving and assault with a deadly weapon, resulting in the death of Earl Neaves.

Members of the deceased's family did not press the prosecution.

In another case that came before Mr. Tucker during the past week, in which Mrs. Sallie Farnsworth, who formerly operated the Puroil Service Station here, together with her husband, the plaintiff took a non-suit. Mrs. Farnsworth was charged with giving a worthless check. There are three other similar cases against her and are set for trial next Thursday.

## Addition To School Bldg. At Crumpler Is Approved By WPA

### ASHE COUNTY GIANT



Ashe county challenges any county in the state or even in the nation to produce a larger human giant than her own James Scott, who is shown above with Basil D. Barr, West Jefferson postmaster and former police chief, J. E. Shumake, standing under his arms. James is 25 years old, weigh 300 pounds, is 7 feet and 4 inches tall and wears number 18 shoes. He is the son of the late L. A. Scott and Mrs. Gare Scott, of Grassy Creek. James is now in Baltimore, Md.

## President Says He'll Continue New Deal Fight

Jackson Day Dinner Address Heard Over Nation. Two Ashe Citizens In Raleigh.

### DEFICIT MONEY RAISED

President Roosevelt gave notice that he would wage a "no compromise" fight against a minority of "business men, bankers and industrialists" who are seeking "autocratic control over the country's economy in his Jackson day address to the nation last Saturday night, which was heard by a large number of local citizens over the radio.

At the dinner held in Raleigh Oscar L. Chapman, assistant secretary of the interior, was the chief speaker. Besides highly praising Roosevelt and the New Deal program, Mr. Chapman lauded Senator Reynolds, but ignored mentioning Senator Bailey, which didn't set so well with many delegates.

Ashe county was represented at the dinner by Sheriff W. E. Miller and L. P. Colvard, register of deeds. There were about 500 present for the occasion and the cost was \$25 per person.

Funds raised from the Jackson day dinners will be used to defray the Democratic party's \$211,000 indebtedness. \$12,500 were raised at the Raleigh meeting.

There were 13 Ashe county citizens who gave a total of \$50, Chairman Ira T. Johnston, reported. They were: W. B. Austin, L. P. Colvard, W. E. Miller, Mrs. W. E. Miller, Bryan Oliver, B. H. Duncan, B. W. Jones, J. B. Hash, J. B. Morpheus, Miss Ruth Tugman, Austin Jones, J. D. Stansberry and Ira T. Johnston.

## Charges Against Lyle Are Dropped

Charges of traffic law violations against Kemly Lyle, of Glendale Springs, were dropped this week when a compromise was reached in a civil case.

The charges were the outgrowth of an automobile-truck accident that took place near Glendale Springs recently when Lyle drove his truck out of a side road in front of an approaching car driven by Miss Vera Rackley, resulting in a crash. Mr. Rackley sustained a serious head injury and his car was badly damaged.

It is understood that Lyle agreed to pay Mr. Rackley \$50.00.

## Work On Constructing Four Classrooms Will Commence Tomorrow Morning

### IS BADLY NEEDED

Work on the construction of four additional classrooms to the Crumpler high school building will commence tomorrow, B. W. Jones, county WPA supervisor, announced yesterday.

Final approval of this WPA project was announced a few days ago and under the direction of J. L. Stump, of Nathan's Creek, foreman for the job, 25 men will start working tomorrow.

Two classrooms will be built on each end of the building. They will be constructed out of brick and will harmonize with the rest of the building. It is estimated that the project will cost around \$7,000.00, with the community putting up the sponsor's part.

Since the erection of the building about 8 years ago, enrollment in the school has grown considerably. The total enrollment now is 399, with 70 in the high school and 329 in the grades. At the present time two or three classes are held in the gym, due to the crowded condition.

Prof. R. E. L. Plummer, who has been principal of the school for several years and who was one of the leaders in erecting the building, has been working faithfully to secure WPA approval of the addition.

Demolition work on the Lansing high school building has been completed and most of the rock is now ready. Classes are being held now in seven different buildings in Lansing.

## Organize Sunday School At Meadow View School House

Thompson Leader In The Organization. Attendance Growing Rapidly.

Under the able leadership of Conley Thompson, a Sunday School was organized at Meadow View school on January 2. There were about 20 present for the organization meeting and last Sunday the attendance was doubled.

The teachers are as follows: Orin Shepherd, Miss Eileen Blevins, Denver Blevins and Alta Shepherd. Mr. Thompson is superintendent and Helen Rupard, secretary.

The people of the community are very much enthused over the Sunday School, as evidenced by the attendance.

Mr. Thompson, who is also the founder and superintendent of the Taxton Presbyterian Sunday School, walks several miles to meet with his first group on Sunday morning and several miles farther to meet with the Meadow View School in the afternoon.

He is also elder of the Gillespie Presbyterian church.

## CHANGES TO GOODYEARS

Announcement is made in this issue of the appointment of W. J. Parts Company as distributors for Goodyear tires. This firm has been handling McLaren tires for some time, but the McMillan brothers decided that they had rather handle the tire that "leads the world in sales".

## Uncle Jim Says



The agricultural conservation program is designed to stabilize production not only to protect the farmer, but also to assure the Nation a more dependable supply of food and fiber.