



MERRY
XMAS
TO
ALL

The Skyland Post

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VOLUME 20, NO. 45

\$2.50 a Year in Ashe County

WEST JEFFERSON, N. C.

THURSDAY, DEC. 23, 1948

\$3.00 a Year Out of County

20 PAGES TODAY

Most Stores To Close Saturday And On Monday

Banks, County Offices Are To Be Closed Two Days

Since Christmas comes on Saturday, it will bring three holidays to most business houses and establishments, Saturday, Sunday and Monday. It has been the custom for the stores to close the day after Christmas, but since this falls on Sunday, this year, most of them have decided to close on Monday. Some of them will be open, however.

The Northwestern and the First National banks will also observe both Saturday and Monday as will the county offices in the courthouse, it was announced.

Sharpe S. Shoemaker, president of the West Jefferson Merchant's Association, said that a canvass revealed that the following stores would be closed both on Saturday and Monday:

Ashe Hardware, Rhodes Furniture Co., W. J. Hardware, Smith's Store, McNeill's, The Fashion Shop, Frazier's Store, Firestone Store, Ray Hardware, B. F. Cook, Blackburn's Department Store, Faucette's, Cash Hardware, The Fabric Shop, Hayes Hardware, Parker's Store, Wiles Jewelry Store, Parker Tie Company and Belk's Dept. Store.

Mrs. Yvonne Owen, public health nurse, announced yesterday that the Ashe county health department would be closed from today through Tuesday, for Christmas holidays.

Cold Wave Sweeps Midwestern Area

Many Counted Dead In Wake Of Heavy Snow Storm In Canada

Chicago — A cold wave swept into the Midwest, from the Canadian border this week as 51 persons were counted dead in the wake of the heavy week end snow storms.

Weather forecasters said the mercury would plunge as much as 30 degrees to 15 degrees below zero in some sections of Minnesota and the Dakotas.

Snow flurries and colder weather were forecast for parts of Wisconsin and Michigan, and Illinois and Indiana.

Heavy winds warned of the new cold wave Tuesday but forecasters said the front was moving slower than expected.

Snow was expected on the eastern seaboard, but the weather bureau said the fall would be light. New York still was recovering from the effects of the third worst snowstorm in the city's history.

John F. Bare To Be Buried Today

The funeral service for John F. Bare, 71, Jefferson, will be held this afternoon at 2:00 at the Orion church. Revs. E. Z. Sexton and C. C. Murray will officiate at the service.

Mr. Bare died at the Duke hospital, Durham, Tuesday afternoon, where he had undergone an operation.

He is survived by his wife, one daughter, Mrs. Edwin Porter and three sisters, Mrs. Baxter Bowers, Mrs. Myrtle Bare and Mrs. Pressly Bare.

Thousands Saw Old Santa Here

Thousands of children have been able to see and talk with Santa Claus here when he has appeared on the streets and in the stores during the Christmas season.

Santa told a representative of this paper that he had never seen as many children in West Jefferson as he had an opportunity to talk to during the holiday shopping season. "They had all been good children, too," he concluded and told of some of their wishes. "Most of the little girls wanted dolls, of course and the choice of little boys was tricycles."

His visits here have been sponsored by a group of West Jefferson merchants.

SINCERE CHRISTMAS GREETINGS... TO EVERYONE EVERYWHERE!



Quiet, White Christmas Is Expected Here

Special Church Services Held; Colder Weather Is Predicted

An old-fashioned, quiet, white Christmas is expected here on Saturday as business ceases and many family groups are united. According to the amount of gifts purchased, Santa should be generous to everyone and if the weatherman's predictions come true, there should be some colder weather with snow.

Santa has already promised many sleighs and there are a number of youngsters expecting to use theirs, however, the weather has dealt many surprises lately and there is a possibility they might have to wait a while longer for sleigh riding.

The fall weather has been unusually mild with only a few cold days and only light snow flurries on two or three occasions, so far.

Many of the churches have already held their special Christmas services as well as pageants, plays and other features depicting the birth of Christ. Others are to be held this week end. Details of these are announced elsewhere in the paper.

Schools have been closed this entire week, but will re-open again on Monday, unless the weather makes this impossible, officials said.

A large number of college students and others who are employed away from home are here for the holidays and there are expected to be many family reunions as well as informal parties.

Jan. Draft Quota Set For Two Men

3 Questionnaires Due Dec. 19 Have Not Been Returned To Board

Ashe county received its second quota this week for men to be inducted into the armed services under the selective service system. The second call was for two men to report January 13, to Charlotte, for induction.

John Paul Jones, Crumpler, who was the first man inducted into service from this county, was discharged from the army December 20, after serving 22 days.

Miss Winona Roland, draft board clerk, stated yesterday that there were 18 questionnaires due December 19, that have not been returned to the local board. She said that if these questionnaires were not returned, the registrants would be listed as delinquent from this county. "All men must fill out the questionnaires and return them within ten days," Miss Roland stated.

Jefferson Girl Passes Board

Mrs. Eula A. Austin Kennedy, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Austin, of Jefferson, was among the graduates of the Baptist hospital, who passed the State Board of Examiners last week and has been registered as a professional nurse.

There were 473 taking the examinations at this time, Mrs. Kennedy completed her training at the hospital last summer and was married in the early fall.

Record Christmas Business Enjoyed By Local Merchants

Uncle Sam Breaks Records For Incoming And Outgoing Mails

After setting a record for volume of holiday business, all West Jefferson stores will be closed on Saturday and some of them on Monday. According to information received here, the majority of the stores set a new high record for Christmas business, with much of it coming earlier in the month than usual.

Gift merchandise as well as practical items has been much in demand. Merchants report that the majority of customers want quality merchandise this year. Wearable gifts have been in much demand, while a number of people have purchased gifts for the home including electrical appliances and furniture.

"Considering the amount of candy on the market and the volume sold every sweet tooth (Continued on page 4)

H. H. Burgess To Start Listing Of Taxes Soon

Listers For Townships Are Now Being Secured; To Be Announced

H. H. Burgess, who has again been named tax supervisor by the Ashe County Commissioners is now making plans to start the listing of taxes early next year.

Mr. Burgess who has efficiently filled this position for the past several years is now securing listers for the various townships, who will be announced at an early date.

Blanks for listing have been prepared as well as additional blanks for the purpose of re-valuation. Appraisers will work with the listers in an equalization plan suggested for county taxes it was explained.

Santa, Street Light Fund Is Far Below Quota

Merchants Who Have Not Made A Contribution Are Asked To Do So

Sharpe E. Shoemaker, president of the West Jefferson Merchants' Association said yesterday that not all of the merchants had contributed to the Santa Claus and street lights funds and that the bills could not be met without the cooperation of everyone.

"Both the lights and the visits from Santa are for the benefit of everyone and we cannot hope to put anything across without the cooperation of everyone," he said. "I do not think it is fair for some few merchants to pay for something which benefits everyone," he said.

A list of contributions received so far are as follows: Those contributing \$10.00 were (Continued on page 8)

Will Remember Needy People

A number of less fortunate people will have their Christmas made merrier here this week, because of the generosity of groups and individuals.

Several clubs, church groups and individuals as well as the American Legion Auxiliary will distribute baskets of food as well as some toys, to less fortunate families for Christmas.

PUBLIC ASKED TO DRIVE CAREFULLY

Because of the usual heavy traffic prevalent on holidays and the uncertain winter weather, local highway patrolmen join with others throughout the State to urge the public to exercise greater care during Christmas in driving safely.

"Don't let death take your holiday," is the national safety slogan. Attention has been called to the fact that almost all accidents can be avoided with a little extra caution.

Tobacco Market Sets Record For Pounds And Price

Turkeys Bring Record Price; Crop Is Short

Prices Higher And Number Smaller Than Ever Before Known Here

Ashe county growers, who sold their turkeys on the local market for Christmas, received a higher price than ever before here, as the average was between 52 and 53 cents per pound, but the income as a whole was far less than usual since there were far fewer turkeys grown.

Unofficial estimates placed the number of turkeys sold by Ashe county growers at around 1800. The turkeys had an average weight of 14 pounds and netted the growers around \$25,000.00 "There were some unusually (Continued on page 4)

To Be Open During The Holidays To Receive Tobacco; Opening Sales Jan. 10

The West Jefferson tobacco market continues to set a record in pounds and prices on quality tobacco, having sold more than 2,650,000 pounds for around \$1,250,000 dollars, when the sales closed Tuesday for the holidays.

Prices have been unusually good on quality tobacco with many lots of it selling as high as \$65.00 per hundred. Prices on wet tobacco and lower grades have been good, considering the quality, officials point out. The average so far is around \$47.00 per hundred.

Sales are scheduled to be resumed after the holidays, on January 10, officials announced. The Tri-State Warehouses, both one and two, will be open every day, except Christmas day during the holidays to receive to (Continued on page 8)

Marshall Plan May Be Used To End Dutch Shooting War

Washington — Government officials are studying the idea of using Marshall plan millions as a wedge to settle the shooting war in Indonesia.

These officials indicated that if The Netherlands should defy a cease-fire order, which may be forthcoming from the United Nations, then the United States might pigeon-hole Dutch requests for further American dollar credits.

Possible resort to this line of action was under study at both the State Department and at Economic Co-operation Administration headquarters, although officially there was no stated threat to use it.

American officials have expressed stern disapproval of the new Dutch-launched war against

the Indonesian republic in Java and Sumatra. In Paris, an American spokesman said late Tuesday the U. S. Government intends to insist before the U. N. Security Council that the fighting halt at once and that Dutch troops return to their former positions.

The Dutch army announced a new landing on the northeast coast of Sumatra and the capture of several more towns in Java, Tuesday.

A spokesman emphatically denied the claims of Indonesian spokesmen in Paris and elsewhere that Republican forces had captured Jogjakarta, the Republican capital in South Java. The Dutch army was still broadcasting at 5:10 Tuesday night from (Continued on page 4)

W. Jefferson Man Honored For Unusual Safety Record

When the editors of Holiday Magazine wanted to run a story about a bus driver, they selected John D. Jones, formerly of West Jefferson, who's driven more than a million miles in 16 years without an accident.

The story appeared in the magazine recently and was reprinted in the current number of the Atlantic Greyhound Lines house organ, Atlantic Courier.

Don Wharton wrote the piece, basing it on Mr. Jones' perfect driving record and a trip taken in his Greyhound bus on one 10-hour run over the 267 miles of mountain road from W.-Salem to Charleston, W. Va. Monthly magazines having deadlines long ahead of publication date, the writer made his trip in July, 1946.

Mr. Jones' record then was 1,093,000 perfect miles (or 25,000,000 passenger miles), and since then he's added thousands more, still without mishap.

Mr. Jones, a native of West Jefferson, now lives in Winston-Salem. He has two boys, Jackie and Jerry Norman and one daughter, Nancy Ann. His wife is the former Miss Anna Mae Shaw, of Des Moines, Iowa. Now 36, he's been driving for Greyhound since he was 20.

Though he drives 68,000 miles a year, according to the article, when vacation time arrives, he takes his family on a motor trip into the mountains.

The run with the writer aboard began here at 10:45 a. m. The route took the bus through King, (Continued on page 4)

Post To Close On Fri. And Sat.

The office of The Skyland Post will be closed Friday and Saturday in observance of the Christmas holidays. The office will be open on Monday and will follow the regular schedule next week.

The Post takes this occasion to again wish all of the readers a "Merry Christmas."

This is also the message of the advertisers in this issue. Throughout this paper will be found many greetings sent to the readers as a personal message from merchants, other firms and individuals.

These greetings are being sent to around 19,800 readers. To all of them, along with merchants, we again say, "Merry Christmas."