

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

THE NEWS - RECORD



Silent Night Holy Night

In traditional spirit,
the real meaning of Christmas
brings to the minds and hearts of
everyone the feeling of peace
and happiness, a season of rejoicing.

With deep appreciation and great pleasure,
we set aside the routine of everyday business, to
greet and thank our friends whose good will we treasure.
To all, a merry Christmas.

Robinson, Employees Honored At Appreciation Banquet

More than 100 persons, including officials and members of the French Broad Electric Membership Corporation, were present on Tuesday night of last week at an Appreciation Banquet held in the Blue Room at Mars Hill College.

The occasion marked the retirement of D.M. (Doug) Robinson, as manager of the French Broad EMC, at the end of December; and the presentation of awards and gifts to employees who have been associated with the Co-op for 30 or more years.

Following the invocation by the Rev. Danny Hayes, who is a member of the Co-op personnel, E.C. Teague, president of the board of directors, gave the welcome and Mrs. Florence M. Ramsey, office manager, introduced special guests.

Julia Treacy, of Mars Hill College, entertained the audience by singing several Christmas songs. She was accompanied on the piano by Miss Susan Chapman.

Gwyn Price, of West Jefferson, former chairman of the North Carolina Rural Electrification Authority, was guest speaker. He was introduced by C.I. Yelton, Burnsville District Manager.

Mr. Price, who served under eight governors, was appointed to his position by Governor Broughton in 1941.

For the past 32 years he and Mr. Robinson have been close friends who have seen rural electricity expand in the state from 3.2 per cent of the population in 1941 to 97 per cent in 1972, with 310,000 consumers.

Mr. Price highly lauded Mr. Robinson for his untiring and dedicated services in the origin and development of the French Broad Electric Membership Corporation. "Doug Robinson is the very soul of the French Broad Electric Co-op," Price stated. He also told of how Mr. Robinson helped set up the State Association and how Robinson had spearheaded the local Co-op to its present membership of more than 15,000.

"Perhaps the greatest blessing of rural electric power is that of running water," Price said.

Price congratulated the other "pioneer leaders of REA" and the members of the Co-op as well as the officials. He commended the employees and office personnel of the Co-op and especially pointed out the dedication to duty performed by skilled linemen and others who brave the rain, sleet, snow and freezing winds to keep electricity flowing to homes and businesses.

When speaking of Mr. Robinson's retirement, he said that he (Robinson) would be "on call" for continued advice and leadership in the years ahead.

Following Mr. Price's talk, E.C. Teague, president of the board of directors of French Broad EMC, reviewed the history of the local Co-op. Teague stated that in 1939, five men went on a tour in Madison County which included the Elmore Carter dairy. "There were only five or six cows at the dairy and there was no electricity. Realizing the need for rural electricity, Doug and the four men put up \$10 each into a treasury and this was the beginning of the French Broad EMC," Teague said. Mr. Teague also recognized



GWYN B. PRICE, of West Jefferson, former chairman of North Carolina Rural Electrification Authority, is shown paying tribute to D. M. Robinson at the Appreciation Banquet held at Mars Hill College on Tuesday night of last week.



ERNEST TEAGUE, of Marshall, president, board of directors of the French Broad EMC, is shown presenting D. M. Robinson with a gold watch as a token of appreciation and devotion.



MR. ROBINSON IS shown expressing his appreciation for the cooperation and devotion he has received from officials and employees for the past 32 years. Also in picture, left to right, Mrs. Gwyn Price, Mrs. E. C. Teague, Mr. Teague; Handsome boy is D. M. Robinson III on lap of his mother; and D. M. Robinson, Jr., of Winston-Salem.



GWYN PRICE, left, and "Doug" Robinson, close friends and associates for many years, are pictured shaking hands and chatting about "old times" following the banquet.

Representative Liston B. Ramsey, who he and Mr. Price stated "had always been a friend of rural electrification." Mrs. Ernestine R. Flannery, Mr. Robinson's secretary, was also recognized by Mr. Teague as a "most efficient secretary." Danny Hayes and Mr. Teague then spoke of the devotion of those who had served in various capacities in the Co-op for the past 33 years.