



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

To All Our Friends

Business Sets New Record

Business Best In 40-Year History, Bank Officials Say, As Sales Soar.

Business this Christmas season has exceeded all previous records, The Mountaineer learned Tuesday morning after making a general survey of all lines of business.

The First National Bank reported a large increase in deposits from all lines of business.

"There is more than at any time in our 40 years in business," J. H. Way, vice president, announced.

"Last Thursday we had over \$200,000 in out-of-town checks, and on Friday we had \$53,000. Most of this was for tobacco," the bank official said.

Almost without exception, every business firm in the community reported good business. Several thought the peak had been reached on the 12th, but business on the 19th broke all records for many firms.

Some managers felt the last four days before Christmas would see a general let-down in sales, but buying was brisk Monday morning, and until noon Tuesday showed no signs of a let-up.

Stocks of toys were fast being depleted, while many gift items were no longer available.

Customers for the most part, were easy to deal with, and rapidly substituted other items for sold-out goods, and without complaint.

Stocks of candy were getting low in some firms, with only a small selection to choose from.

Fruit stocks seemed to be holding up good Tuesday, and there was every indication there would be enough to supply the demand.

While merchants enjoyed a good business, there were many people who bought stamps and bonds for gifts during the last-minute rush.

Sale Of 1943 Tabs Still Going Slow

Motorists were paying more attention to gasoline rationing cards than they were to new 1943 license tabs during the past week, according to the record for the sale of tabs.

"People are buying mighty slow. And unless there is a change, some will not be able to operate their cars after January first, as we have just received a letter from the state saying there would be no extension of time this year," Mrs. Galusha said. The tabs are on sale at Western Auto Store here.

Some motorists frankly admitted they were not buying new tabs until assured they could get gasoline to operate their cars. Others were waiting until after Christmas, just in order to have enough money for the holidays, while still another group just put off the matter.

Do You Have The Christmas Spirit?

—then turn to page two, and read Hilda Way Gwyn's column—"Here and There."

She too lacked the spirit, but found it.

And what is Christmas without the spirit of the day? —read her column.

Christmas Season Here Opened With Religious Programs At Churches

Stores To Remain Closed Saturday; Business In General Suspends For Three Days.

Christmas week was inaugurated in the community on last Sunday evening with special service and pageants presented at the churches.

At the First Baptist church "The Nativity", an impressive Christmas pageant, was given to a packed auditorium. The pageant was in four scenes, with colorful costumes and well directed music.

"Little Stars in a Dark World" was presented at the Presbyterian church, portraying the Christmas story in an impressive manner to a large congregation.

At the First Methodist church a White Christmas service was observed. Mrs. J. M. Kellett read the story, "The Other Wise Men," and the Manger scene was presented in tableau as the members of the congregation placed their gifts on the altar for distribution among the needy of the community.

At Long's Chapel a special Christmas service with a cantata by the church choir "Night of Holy Memories" was observed.

Community Tree To Be Held At 3 On Christmas Day

The community Christmas tree which is sponsored annually by the welfare department of the Woman's Club will be held at 3:00 o'clock on the afternoon of 25th at the court house.

Rev. S. R. Crockett, pastor of the Hazelwood Presbyterian church will be in charge of the brief devotional period prior to the presentation of the gifts from the tree.

Mrs. J. C. Brown, chairman of welfare in the club, is in charge of the arrangements. Serving with Mrs. Brown on Christmas Day in the distribution of the gifts will be: Mrs. Leo Martell, Mrs. James W. Killian, Mrs. C. F. Kirkpatrick, Mrs. T. L. Bramlett, and others.

Among the firms, organizations and individuals who have made contributions to the gifts, fruits and candies for the tree are: Town of Waynesville, Lions Club, Rotarians, Mr. and Mrs. R. N. Barber, Mr. and Mrs. E. N. Wood, Park Theatre, and Robert Boone.

Methodist Church Will Be Open To Public Christmas

The First Methodist church will be heated on Christmas and open to the public for the entire day, it has been announced by the pastor of the church.

All those who wish to drop in for a period of meditation and prayer during the day are cordially invited to do so by the pastor and the board of stewards.

Midnight Service Christmas Eve At Grace Church

The annual Christmas Eve midnight service will be held at Grace Episcopal church starting at 11:30 o'clock Thursday evening.

The rector, the Rev. William Baker, will deliver the sermon.

The Holy Communion will be a part of the service conducted by the rector. The public is cordially invited to attend the services.

Milk Producers Get Semi-Monthly Checks

Milk producers who sell to Pet Dairy Products Company got their checks Tuesday instead of having to wait until the 25th and after, according to R. B. Davenport, manager, who announced that the semi-monthly checks were paid ahead of time.

Fifty-Four Men Leave This Week For Active Duty

Fifty-four selectives of the December quota under the selective service system are scheduled to leave this area during the week. Sixty-nine men left last week for physical examinations at Camp Croft. Official notice of acceptance of only 54 of the number has been received by the draft board.

In the first group were forty-four men, who left here at 6:30 o'clock Tuesday morning to take up active duty at Fort Jackson. James Paul Phillips served as acting corpora.

In the first group were: Ed Samuel Bright, Reeves Ledford, Rubin Jay Kirkpatrick, Robert Gudger Palmer, William Edward Johnson, Lawrence B. Leatherwood, Theodore R. Grant, George A. Dockery, Joseph Houston Leatherwood.

Ralph Hannah, Charlie Greson, Charles D. Ketner, Lawrence Edward McElroy, Harry Fain McCracken, John Lewis Moody, James E. Howell, George F. Scates, William Clyde Owens, Wilburn A. Campbell, Carl D. Mooney, David D. Green, Victor Noback.

Rufus McGaha, Dewitt T. Rathbone, James T. Reeves, James Edward Hendricks, Carl F. Messer, Jack W. Arrington, Woodrow C. Campbell, Hardy C. Sanford, Charles Lee Pressley, Robert E. Hance, Walter H. Plemons, Gilmer J. Setzer, Jerry P. Price, Charles D. Lance, Troy J. Stevenson, Newman Ray Milner, J. Hugh Caldwell, Claud E. Smathers, and Wilburn Franklin Kirkpatrick.

The second group left at 6:30 on Wednesday morning and will report to Fort Jackson. Homer Allen will serve as acting corporal of the following: Billie L. Potts, Walker L. Chambers, Horace A. Messer, and Burlin Conner.

Scheduled to leave on the 26th at 6:30 o'clock for Fort Jackson with Glenn W. Cuthbertson as acting corporal are Elfor Sutton, Glenn Z. Clarke, and Robert E. Platt.

All three groups will be the guests of Chrest George and the Waynesville Bakery at the W. W. N. C. Cafe, just before taking the bus. They will be served a hot cup of coffee and doughnuts. Mr. George owns the cafe and Mr. Pearce of the Waynesville Bakery have served every group of selectives leaving this area.

Rationing Board Offices To Be Closed Thursday Noon Until Monday

Announcement has been made that the offices of the rationing board on the third floor of the court house will be closed to the public at 1:00 o'clock on Thursday. They will remain closed until Monday morning at the usual opening hour of 9:00 o'clock.

Mr. and Mrs. Phillips Return From Virginia

Mr. and Mrs. P. V. Phillips and family have returned from Morris-town, Va., where Mr. Phillips has been on a war construction project for some months.

Mr. Phillips plans to return in the spring as soon as weather conditions are more favorable for outdoor work.

Haywood To Suspend Business For Three-Day Christmas Holiday

Number of Pageants Were Given In Community Over the Past Week-End.

Waynesville community and Haywood county will start a long week-end Christmas vacation on Thursday which will extend until Monday morning, due to the fact that Christmas Day falls so near the end of the week this year.

The majority of the business firms will close sometime Thursday, some later and others earlier, all in accordance with the type of their business.

"We appreciate the co-operation of the business men of the community in their response regarding closing for the extended week-end," said Charlie Ray, chairman of the merchants division of the Chamber of Commerce.

All places that usually open on Sunday will observe Sunday hours on Saturday, and stay open during the same periods, but other business firms will be closed from Thursday until Monday morning.

The employees of the First National Bank will be given a holiday starting on Thursday through Monday.

All officers in the court house with the exception of the sheriff's department will close at noon on Thursday and remain closed until Monday morning.

In some of the plants where war production orders are being filled it will be another story. Work will continue with one shift after another taking their places in the mighty war effort to rush production. Christmas Day will be observed, however.

The Mountaineer office will join the other business firms on Main street and close Thursday evening.

Rotarians Give \$60 To Spread Christmas Cheer

Rev. William Baker, pastor of the Grace Episcopal church, told Rotarians Friday of the early customs and dates of Christmas. He traced the history of the day down through the centuries.

The club voted to contribute \$60 towards baskets for the needy and \$10 to the Community Christmas tree, sponsored by the Woman's Club.

Mercury Has Been Down To Eight Here This Year

Although winter did not officially arrive until Tuesday, wintery blasts reached here several days ahead, as the mercury in the official thermometer tumbled down to 8 on the 14th, followed by two readings of 11 on the 15th and 17th.

The coldest day of the past week was on Monday, with a reading of 14. Monday was also the shortest day of the year.

Robert Hugh Clark Named County Electrical Inspector

Robert Hugh Clark was appointed electrical inspector for Haywood county by the commissioners at their regular third Monday of the month meeting held this week.

The better part of the day was spent by the board in reviewing routine matters coming up at the first part of their term of office.

Hazelwood Baptists To Have Pageant Thursday

A Christmas pageant will be given at the Hazelwood Baptist church on Thursday evening, December 24, at 7:30 o'clock by the junior and intermediate children of the church. The pageant is being directed by Miss Edith Queen.

The primaries and beginners will give a program of songs and poems, with Miss Elaine Queen in charge.

Immediately after the program a treat will be given to members of the Sunday school.

Postoffice Has Good Business

Late Mailing Causing Undue Delay; Shortage Of Help Is Big Handicap To Office.

"We are having the largest Christmas rush we have ever experienced, and I don't see how we are going to make it this year," said Major J. Harden Howell, postmaster, Tuesday morning.

"Everything is against us. Two of our dispatchers have been taken into the army during the past month. While we have two girls to take their places and they are doing excellent jobs, it is impossible for them to learn in less than four weeks what the men learned in five years," he continued.

"Another thing the public has not cooperated with the requests of the post office department. They have waited until the last minute to mail packages and cards," he said.

"All the trains are from three to four hours late which runs us so far behind each day that it would be impossible to catch up, under ordinary conditions, much less, with a bigger load than ever carried before," he pointed out.

"The total receipts for the quarter of last year was \$9,061.31 and this year it is now over \$10,396.10 and we still have a week to go," sighed Major Howell in recounting the trials of the local post office this Christmas season.

\$200 On Dime Board For Lions Club Cheer Fund

At noon Tuesday, about \$200 had been placed on the dime board, sponsored by the Lions Club for their Christmas cheer fund, and work among the blind in the community.

The board was set up near The Toggery Friday, and in the three and a half days had had \$200 placed on it. Officials of the club felt that by Christmas Eve the total would reach \$350.

Members of the club are taking turns in keeping the board.

Dayton Rubber Co. Gives Christmas Party for Employees

The Dayton Rubber plant officials were hosts on Saturday evening of a party given at the Waynesville Armory to their employees. The armory had been elaborately decorated in Christmas greens and patriotic colors for the occasion.

Chas. G. Miller, local factory superintendent, was master of ceremonies the first part of the evening, later turning the microphone over to Clyde Fisher, assistant production manager.

Mr. Miller introduced the following officials from the main plant in Ohio, under which the local factory is operated: A. L. Freedlander, (Continued on page 8)

Last Rites Are Held For Mrs. W. W. Pressley Tuesday Afternoon

Funeral services were held at the Dix Creek Baptist church at 11 o'clock Tuesday morning for Mrs. Mary Lou Pressley, 48, who died at her home in East Fork Township at 2:30 o'clock Monday morning.

The Rev. Thomas Erwin officiated. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Funeral Services Held Friday Afternoon For Frances Lee Potts

Funeral services were held on last Friday afternoon at the Balsam Baptist Church at 2 o'clock for Frances Lee Potts, who died at 2:15 a. m. on Thursday at his home in the Balsam section. The Rev. Nando Stevens officiated. Burial was in the Conner cemetery near Balsam.

Mr. Potts was a native of Swain County, and was born on May 29, 1863. He had been engaged in farming all his life. He was active in the Balsam Baptist Church, having been a member for the past forty years.

Surviving are his widow, four sons, Thurman, of Hendersonville, Roy and Lee of Balsam, and George Potts, U. S. Army, three daughters, Mrs. John Blanton, of Balsam, and Mrs. Louie Upsome and Mrs. John Upsome, of Daytona Beach; 25 grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

Rotary Club Will Not Meet This Friday

The Rotary Club will not meet this week, since their regular meeting day falls on Christmas. The regular schedule will be resumed next Friday, at 12:45 at The Maples.

WEATHER

The following is the official weather report for Waynesville, as recorded by The Mountaineer:

Date	Max	Min	Precip
17	42	11	.00
18	49	35	.00
19	52	31	.00
20	56	21	.22
21	36	14	.00
22	46	23	.05

