

AROUND THE DISTRICT

By George Vitas,

Black Mountain (NC) NEWS—5
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SECTION II

ounces of soap powder into two quarts of hot water.

Census records for 1950 show a U. S. farm population of 25,577,000. This represents a drop of 5,000,000 during the past 10 years. The Bureau of Agricultural Economics reports that this means that today we have just about the same number of people living on the farm as we had 50 years ago. However, the cities of the U. S. show a gain of 75,000,000 people over what the urban population was 50 years ago. Where do the folks who leave the farm go? Most of them, according to the BAE, move into small towns or suburban areas. It seems that boys and girls don't stay on the farm like they used to—from one-third to one-half of those born on farms move to cities. And of those that move to the city, farm girls outnumber the farm boys. The BAE also points out that large numbers of farmers have converted themselves to part-time business and factory workers, while at the same time more and more business and industrial workers take up part-time farming.

Dinner And Christmas Program Enjoyed At Men's Club Meet

Thirty-six men were present for the Methodist Men's Club dinner meeting in the fellowship room of the church Tuesday evening, Dec. 11. Dempsey Whitaker, president, presided. Christmas greens and red lighted tapers in crystal holders were used to decorate. The table was centered with a yuletide design, compliments of Seawright Florist.

Following the dinner, the Rev. Thad McDonald opened the program with the reading of the Christmas Story. Mrs. Douglas Jones and Mrs. William Hummer sang several Christmas carols, accompanied at the piano by Mrs. I. L. Pence. The group joined in and sang carols at the close of the program.

Billy Graham's "Portland Story" was shown by Ross Taylor.

Joint Christmas Party Held By American Legion And Legion Auxiliary

The American Legion and the Legion Auxiliary held a joint Christmas party and covered dish supper at the Legion hall last Monday night. John J. O'Connor, commander, introduced the Rev. Winfield Smith and Mrs. Smith, who have recently moved to Black Mountain. The Rev. Mr. Smith is pastor of the Episcopal church here.

The program was turned over to Mrs. Douglas Jones, president of the Auxiliary, who recognized the two Gold Star mothers present. They were Mrs. W. H. Lindsey and Mrs. J. T. Simpson. The group sang Christmas carols following the supper.

Methodist Church Christmas Program

Special Christmas programs at the Methodist church will begin Friday evening, 6:45, with the traditional Christmas Fellowship supper, honoring college students home for the holidays. This program will feature carol singing and a Christmas movie.

The adult choir will present special Christmas music at the 11 o'clock service Sunday morning, Dec. 23.

A White Christmas program, featuring the music of the newly-organized children's choir, will be presented at 5:30 Sunday afternoon in the Sanctuary.

The public is invited to attend each of these services and programs.

We spent last week at the national meeting of the Society of American Foresters in Biloxi, Miss. This was the 51st meeting of the society and brought a record turnout of 1400 foresters. It was very gratifying to see the large number of industrial foresters who attended. The fact that the forest industries have been hiring foresters in ever increasing numbers is proof that good forest management is a paying proposition.

In passing through Atlanta, we drove down Piedmont avenue and saw a large lot full of spruce and Fraser fir Christmas trees sporting the red Smokey bear tags. On one side the tag said, "Smokey Says: Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, Prevent Forest Fires." On the other side, "This tree brings a Christmas message from the great outdoors. Its cutting was not destructive but gave needed room for neighboring trees to grow faster and better. It was cut under the supervision of the U. S. Forest Service on the PISGAH NATIONAL FOREST." We might add that we had a personal feeling for those trees because they were part of a sale we had made to an Atlanta man on Roan Mountain!

To most of us Christmas is a happy time. But for some it turns out to be a day of tragedy. Each year we read where the happiness of some American home was shattered when the family Christmas tree caught fire. Research foresters who have been studying the problem, have come up with some advice. To keep the tree fresher, greener and more fragrant, place the stem in water instead of nailing it to a dry stand. Better than plain water is a solution of five grams of citric acid and six grams of malic acid or pectin. Replenish as used. Absorption by the tree will be better if the stem is cut on a slant with a sharp knife instead of being sawn straight across.

Keeping the tree fresh also reduces the fire hazard. But the tree can be made even more fire resistant by using a solution of either 18 grams of calcium carbonate or ammonium sulphate in about one-fourth the weight of the tree. Sheeting, cotton, and other material placed under the tree can be sprinkled with a solution of seven ounces of borax, three ounces of boric acid and 1.5



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