

BLACK MOUNTAIN NEWS

"Buncombe County's Outstanding Weekly"

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still greater deductions would be allowed by Sen. Shuford's SE 161 which would increase allowable deductions from 10% of net income to 20% of gross income plus credits. Another bill (HB 802) would permit deductions of commuting expenses in computing taxable net income. Designed to attract mining industries to the state but with little immediate effect on state revenues anticipated.

SB 144, endorsed by 18 senators, provides for a federal relief depletion allowances in permitting deductions for depletion of mines, natural deposits and oil and gas wells. To adjudicate questions of liability for state and local taxes a Tax Appeals Commission would be established under provisions of HB 328. The joint finance committee can be expected to withhold final action on all tax bills pending the Governor's budget message and final determination on appropriations.

Education.
Two more bills concerning subject matter in the Governor's inaugural message were introduced this week. SB 1124 appropriates \$339,720 for each year of the biennium to set up a program of driver training and safety education in all public high schools. HB 367 attacks the school consolidation program and proposes a plan under which most of the schools closed in recent years could be reopened. An able subcommittee was appointed by Chairman Maddy of the House education committee to consider all consolidation bills introduced and draft a state-wide bill. The subcommittee now has under consideration HB 84 (Bertie) and HB 310 (Moore), designed to permit reopening of closed or consolidated schools, and will now receive HB 367.

Local Government.
Another proposal giving county commissioners authority to fix salaries for county employees has reached the General Assembly, this one with statements that possible unconstitutional delegation of legislative power had been avoided by limiting county commissioners' power to reduce or increase salaries to 5% per fiscal year. Measure also provides for solicited annual appropriations of \$60,000 to compensate the city for fire and police protection and garbage collection for non-taxable state property.

Judges and Court Procedure.
The General Assembly has not forgotten the judges. Bills introduced this week would raise salaries of supreme court justices from \$14,400 to \$16,000 (with an extra \$500 for the chief justice), superior court judges from \$10,000 to \$12,000, superior court solicitors from \$6,500 to \$7,150 (plus an expense allowance increase of \$150) and emergency judges from \$50 to \$100 weekly. HB 163, a Judicial Council bill endorsed by the Governor to add six additional superior court resident judges, passed second reading in the House on Friday. Rep. Womble of Wake objected to third reading of the bill, claiming that no provision was made to relieve the crowded docket in Wake County, where it sometimes takes five years to get a civil case tried.

The Judicial Council (assigned by law the duty of continuous research on means to improve court procedure and administration) has already seen two of its recommendations held up by the House. However, the General Statutes Commission (assigned by law the duty of continuous research to revise and correct the statutory law) has seen four of its bills reported unfavorably, although five of the original 17 have passed both houses and five more have passed the Senate.

Miscellaneous.
The smooth progress of the Governor's highway reorganization bill was jarred slightly as it reached the floor of the House on Thursday. A spirited, if futile, show of opposition by Rep. Kiser, culminating in the first call for the "ayes and noes" of the 1953 session, was crushed as SB 88 was passed with only eight dissenting votes. The bill was ratified on Friday and is now law. Another administration measure, HB 205, creating a commission to study and recommend changes in the state government structure, was reported favorably by House Judiciary 1, but floor consideration was postponed until next Tuesday. Agriculture got into the "commission" picture on Monday when a bill was introduced authorizing the Governor to appoint a seven-member commission to make recommendations to the 1955 General Assembly on locating and financing a produce marketing center. Attempts to deliver the "coup de grace" to the ailing Ku Klux Klan appeared simultaneously in both House and Senate on Wednesday. HB 306 and SB 140 clear the way for the state to form secret societies in the state in order broad enough to include college fraternities and the Communist party.



Washington.—The Republicans are in a dilemma as to which should come first—balancing the budget or cutting taxes. Congressman Dan Reed of upper New York, who succeeded our own Congressman Doughton as Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, is insisting upon an immediate tax reduction.

Mr. Reed feels that cuts in spending would necessarily follow a tax cut, so as to bring spending in line with tax revenues. It appears to me that he is right. The best way to stop a spendthrift from overspending is to give him only a certain amount to spend.

On the other hand, Speaker Martin and a great many other Republicans are afraid of a deficit and, apparently, they are not too anxious to cut down on the spending. There is quite a clamor by their fellow Republicans who wish to get on the public payroll. This seems to be a never-ending problem, regardless of who is in the saddle—Democrats or Republicans.

Everyone wishes to be sure that our defense needs are taken care of and not deprived of any necessary appropriation. But the difficulty lies in the fact that it is almost impossible for civilians in the government to find out about waste and extravagance by the military until after those things have occurred.

on the Voice of America. Last summer, when I was in Greece, I visited the ship that the United States had rigged up with radio equipment to transmit our messages from different spots in the Mediterranean. Millions of dollars were spent on the ship and there are many who think that was unwise because one small submarine and one small torpedo could end the ship's activities in short order.

I also have considerable doubt as to the nature of the propaganda our government has transmitted via the Voice of America. I'll give my reasons in a later column.

News From
OTEEN and AZALEA
By Mrs. Royer Lewis
Representative & Subscription Agent
Azalea, N. C.
Phone Asheville 7279

Peggy Yow on Black Mountain highway had her second driving lesson Sunday, Feb. 22. Her father took her to Swannanoa school grounds for her lesson.

Gordon Brown of Arden celebrated his birthday Sunday, Feb. 22. Mr. Brown is grandfather of Diana and Mickey Brown of Azalea.

Bible study course on the Gospel of St. Mark is being held with Sunday evening worship services and hymn singing at Azalea Methodist church, with the Rev. Marjorie Workman teaching the course.

Mrs. Frank Porter is visiting with her sister Mrs. H. C. Creamer on Riceville road due to the death of their 86-year-old mother, Mrs. Alice Cordell.

Mr. and Mrs. George Stevens and son, Charles, went to Marion Thursday night, Feb. 19, due to the death of Mrs. Jim Freshour.

The W.S.C.S. Circle No. 2 of Bethel Methodist church met Tuesday night, Feb. 17, at the home of Mrs. R. S. Armstrong, Sr. Mrs. Evelyn Owens had charge of the program, using as the topic "By One Spirit Are We One Body." Those taking part were Mrs. Margaret Ray, Mrs. Bennett Warren, Mrs. Aileen Reed and Mrs. Owens. During the business session plans were made for a supper for the Men's club to be held the first Tuesday in March, and a poverty supper to be held March 20, the money going to the Children's Home. The nominating committee were elected. Study course was planned for Wednesday with a covered dish luncheon with the Azalea W.S.C. attending. Refreshments were served by the hostess to the following: Mrs. R. S. Armstrong, Sr., Mrs. R. S. Armstrong, Jr., the Rev. and Mrs. Workman, Mrs. B. L. Creamer, Mrs. Jack Carter, Mrs. Margaret Ray, Mrs. Aileen Reed, Mrs. Bill Tipton, Mrs. Lee West, Mrs. Mary Falls, Mrs. Lillian Taylor, Mrs. Evelyn Owens, Mrs. Rubin Clark, Mrs. Bennett Warren and Mrs. Roy Armstrong.

The W.M.S. of Oteen Baptist church met Monday evening, Feb. 16, at the home of Mrs. Wayne Robinson on Church road with 12 members present. The royal coronation program was presented, titled "Winning the Mormans the Right Way." Mrs. Mae Swann was in charge with other members taking part in the discussion. The program closed with sentence prayers and special blessing going up for the Rev. W. L. Bierer and others that are ill. An offering was taken and two new members were taken into the society, Mrs. L. R. Gardner and Mrs. Harry Moore. Refreshments were served by the hostess to the following members: Mrs. M. B. Padgett, Mrs. Zeb Roberts, Mrs. T. V. Carter, Mrs. W. L. Bierer, Mrs. Ben Briggman, Mrs. Robert Clayton, Mrs. Charles Riddle, Mrs. J. R. Tomson, Mrs. Harry Moore, Mrs. L. R. Gardner and Mrs. Mae Swann.

Mr. and Mrs. Shackelford of Craig circle, Oteen, have had as their guests this week from Winston-Salem, Mrs. Magdelene Holt-hiuser and Dewey Sharpe. On their return to Winston-Salem they took Mrs. Laura Sharpe back home. Mrs. Sharpe is Mrs. Shackelford's mother.

The W.S.C.S. of Azalea Methodist church met for its regular monthly meeting Tuesday, Feb. 17, at the home of Mrs. Roy Carver on Black Mountain highway. Mrs. George Stevens was in charge of the program, due to the absence of Mrs. Royer Lewis. Title of the program was "By One Spirit Are We One Body." Program opened with the singing of a hymn and reading of the Lord's Prayer. Talks were given by Mrs. Octavia Shelton and Mrs. Martha Lamb. Scripture was given by Mrs. V. G. Sorrells, taken from the 12th chapter of Corinthians, 4-13 verses. A memorial service was held for Grandmother Lewis, founder of the Azalea society. A poem she wrote was read by Mrs. Walter Cooper. Closing prayer was by Mrs. V. G. Sorrells. Mrs. Betty Sorrells, president, presided over the social hour. The rummage sale was postponed until a later date due to flu. Plans were made for supper to be held at the church the first week of March. One hundred and fifty-one sick visits were made by members and 34 get well cards sent. Mrs. —Turn to Page 12.

Jaycees Install 4 New Members
The Black Mountain Jaycee Chamber of Commerce installed four new members at a dinner meeting last Thursday night at the assembly Inn, Montreat.
The new members are: James A. Brittain, Coleman (Bobby) Wright, Richard Stone, and Leonard Keever. The installing officer was Dwight Beatty, district president of Waynesville.
The Rev. Thad McDonald gave a talk on "Brotherhood" in conjunction with National Brotherhood week. Also present were Jim Gardner and Gene Ochsner, reter, Jr., of Asheville and Harold Patton of Black Mountain.

TRY A NEWS CLASSIFIED

They'll BUY RENT FIND SELL

TRY ONE TODAY!

McFalls Takes Course At Army School In Japan
ETA JIMA, JAPAN—Pfc. Walter E. McFalls, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. H. McFalls, Ridgecrest, N. C., recently completed a mechanics course at the army's Eta Jima Specialist School in Japan.
He received training in the maintenance of different types of wheel, track and amphibious vehicles during the seven-week course.
Private McFalls arrived overseas three and one-half months ago and is assigned to the 24th Infantry Division's 21st Infantry Regiment. He entered the army in April 1951.
APPOINTED ASSISTANT
Ruth C. Richardson has just been appointed assistant to the head of the therapy department of Duke hospital. Miss Helen Kaiser is director of the physical therapy department.
LOOK WHO'S HERE!
Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Silver of Swannanoa have a son born Feb. 21 in St. Joseph's hospital.

Liberty-Intelligence-Our Nation's Safety!

Tonight is charter night and ladies night for the Black Mountain Lions club.

In the words of Charles Spencer, editor of Jungle Capers, official bulletin of the Black Mountain Lions club, "this is the night when we pay homage to those who first carried the ball all the way to a goal post. The charter members of the club were new at the business of Lions club work. They did not join a tried and proven organization, as a new member finds today when he is inducted into our club. Our C.M.'s had to build from the ground up, and in 1935 it was uphill work all the way. Not until December 1937 did our club get a lasting start."

That and other thoughts were expressed by Mr. Spencer in his charter night issue of the bulletin which was received this week by members here.

The Lions club, local and national, has

grown into an organization of major importance. Today there are more than half a million Lions in 42 nations of the world.

The Lions club, like any civic organization, stands for community improvement at the local, state, and national level. It was interesting that during World War II no two Lions ever met as enemies on the field of battle. This speaks well for the influence which Lionism has on the nations in which it thrives. Lionism and democracy walk hand-in-hand.

Tonight as we salute the charter members, let us not forget the long hours of work which this civic-minded group has given freely to our community, nor the great contribution which they and the members of the club have made.

We salute the Lions, charter members, officers, and members. Long may your influence be great in your community.

Weekly Summary Of Legislature

The General Assembly waited for the Governor's budget message during this seventh legislative week and turned for diversion to other subjects, such as girls' basketball, automobile racing, and roasted oysters. Pamlico county officials and the state prison were hosts on Wednesday to legislators and other guests at an oyster roast at the prison; Wake County citizens turned out in force on Thursday to oppose legislation which would permit Sunday automobile races at the Southland Speedway; and both houses agreed on Friday that a regulation of the State Board of Education prohibiting girls' basketball teams from participating in tournaments outside their home counties was impractical, no matter how laudable the objective. (Item: the regulation was overruled.)

The Governor continued to confer with legislators in the mansion throughout the week while his budget message was being ironed out for Tuesday delivery. In the meantime it was becoming evident that much important legislation, including the legislative programs of several state departments, was being held up, possibly pending approval by the chief executive.

The rate of bill introduction is ahead of 1951 in the House, slightly behind in the Senate. If legislation of state-wide interest is slow reaching the capitol, it can be said that local legislation is picking up. Through Friday 266 local bills had been introduced as compared with 191 at the same time last session. Speculation next week will center on the Senate, which now has a rule prohibiting the introduction of local bills after March 1. To date 56 local bills have been introduced in the Senate, in comparison with over 250 for the entire session in 1951.

Appropriations.
Since January 21 the 89-member joint appropriations committee has been sitting three afternoons each week to hear department requests, to carry the ball, explain why they should get a bigger slice of the pie. By Wednesday, Feb. 18, all had been heard. Total requests over and above the \$638,000,000 in appropriations recommended by the Advisory Budget Commission reached \$145,886,074 from the General Fund and about \$118,000 from the Highway Fund. This total includes \$110,595,617 for permanent improvements (of which \$60,000,000 was requested for school building purposes) and \$34,790,457 for operating funds. Next week it is expected that the Governor's budget message will be read to the legislature on Tuesday, after which the appropriations committees will begin wielding the paring knife. As yet no one knows whether there will be a sub-committee appointed to make the first draft of the ultimate biennial money bill. That, too, may be decided next week.

Finance.
Despite implications in the \$145 million additional appropriations requests, some legislators continue to direct their attention toward possible tax reductions with emphasis this week on the income tax. Two bills envisioned increased deductions for gifts made by individuals to organizations operated exclusively for religious, charitable, literary, scientific and educational purposes. Estimated to reduce state revenues by \$500,000 per year, Rep. Fally of HB 309 would permit individuals to deduct up to 20% (instead of only 10% as now provided) of net income for gifts and contributions;

KIDD BREWER'S Raleigh Roundup

li Wind, Etc.—It's an ill wind that doesn't blow somebody some good, or something.

Anyway, you heard couple years back how the Scott administration was cursed from here to the barn for the terrible expense of putting an elevator in the governor's official residence on Blount street here.

"Anybody in the world ought to be able to climb those stairs at the Mansion," was the remark most frequently heard. Well, in the first place they are not so easy to climb — old-fashioned, steep, and big-stepped. Of course, Kerr Scott didn't mind them, being an old hill climber.

But William B. Umstead will, for chances are his physician would rather he didn't do much step-climbing for some time to come. So the accused elevator seems to be not only a great convenience but — for the time being at least — a necessity.

Another change made while Scott was the office involved moving the governor's office from the southeast corner — away out there in left field — to an interior office of the Capitol. All of Scott's predecessors had been in the corner. And they were actually cornered. There was no inner office, no bathroom, no way to get out of there except to dart with reckless abandon into the main foyer of the building. Escape? Yes, into the arms of the little people — 10,000 school children — wanting autographs and big people — hungry for the proverbial "just a word."

There was no real escape for the governor. He had to go through the foyer, or through the crowd, even to get to the bathroom.

Now despite cries as soon as Scott left that the governor's office should be moved immediately back to the southeast corner, chances are it will not be.

The Mansion elevator and the office change may prove to be two of the best things Kerr Scott ever did for William Umstead.

—And Courtesy — Members of the Legislature, by the time they have been in Raleigh a few weeks, frequently feel they are merrily riding off in all directions. This feeling of frustration more often than not stems from pressure at home: a group doesn't like the sheriff; another wants to change the county school board; and still another wants that county freed of state restrictions on the sale of that fine old skidrow commodity, bay rum.

This local legislation causes the average legislator much more worry than items of statewide significance. I am told that in times past—and it may be so this time —members of the general assembly have stayed in Raleigh six and eight weeks at a time dreading to go home and face the music.

Yes, more home rule is needed. Those cities, counties and towns who mourn the movement of government from the local level to Raleigh and Washington should get together and call firmly for a place in the sun.

Then it would not be necessary for the legislature to decide whether bears may be hunted county, whether any rum may be sold in ditto, or if certain volunteer firemen in Dunn may be freed of jury duty.

Worry with local legislation and the never-ending extension of the courtesies of the lobby and floor to every Tom, Dick, and Harry, each Jane and Sue visiting in Raleigh may tell consume one-third of the legislature's time.

Lift these burdens from the shoulders of the average legislator, and you will find away down, under the circumstances, a reasonably happy individual.

No Hurry—Not in recent years has anybody seen as much real executive-legislative harmony as exists here between members of the 1953 general assembly and Gov. Umstead. His okay on a bill is like a lighted match applied

to guided missile. On at least one occasion a whispered word from the Mansion has jerked from the jaws of defeat legislation which had been floundering.

Each governor has it easy with his first legislature. Nobody ever had it better—never was a governor's honeymoon sweeter than this. It's natural thing, in a way, based on solid respect for, and confidence in the governor. All in all, it amounts to one home-run after another.

When will Gov. Umstead return to the office he vacated within a few hours after taking over from Kerr Scott? Nobody seems to know. Meantime, things could not go better were Gov. Umstead sitting plunk in the middle of both houses armed with cocked six-shooters and ready to blast away at any finger lifted in opposition. So there is really no hurry about Gov. Umstead's getting back on the scene. He's resting, but is definitely in the saddle. He's at home, but still knocking home. He is chaffing at the bit to be back in there swinging. You may be sure he will return the minute the doctor gives him the green light.

The Totin' — When a bond issue is presented to the people, it doesn't just click along by itself. Somebody has to do the totin'. Somebody has to carry the ball. Size of the bond issue doesn't seem to make as much difference as the amount of educational work done in connection with it. You folks who have worked on such things out in the counties know how it is.

In the famous 1949 bond vote for 225 million dollars—200 million for rural roads and 25 million for schools—the contractors carried the ball. Everybody knows now that it cost them close to \$50,000 to get out the vote. Even then, a handful of mountain counties, nine to be exact, proved to be the deciding factor. Going into the west, the 1949 vote was lost.

Who is going to do the totin' in the voting on 73 million dollars in bonds to go for schools and for mental institutions?

Of course, the powerful N. C. Education association will be in there pitching. Gov. William B. Umstead's friends throughout the state will be supporting him on the projects.

But who will be out there beating the drum for those hundreds of patients in insane asylums and the hundreds more needing admittance? This is the most important question facing us as the way is cleared in the legislature for the bond vote later in the year.

Notes — Biggest opponents to upping the sales tax over the present \$15 will be the N. C. Auto Dealers assn. From here it looks like Clyde R. Greene of Boone will succeed J. M. Bailey, Jr., of Marshall as N. C. GOP chairman.

Reports are that two Pou descendants — Wake Representative Edwin Pou, son of the late George Ross Pou—and State Senator James H. Pou Bailey are at daggers' points over a bill which would permit Sunday auto races in Wake. . . . On top of this it is reported each would like to run against Congressman Harold D. Cooley. . . . Pay no attention to the rumors, just a rift, and each of the Pou descendants is extremely popular in Wake. Bailey is son-in-law of Edwin Pate, president pro tem of the state senate.

We understand that a dollar book on former Gov. Kerr Scott will soon be available at your corner drugstore. May we suggest a title? How about "The Dreaded Scott Decision"? We hear, meantime, that WKS is on a radio network farm-friending each morning—and speaking to Ruritan clubs at the drop of a bandanna.

If he is planning to run for the U. S. Senate, Scott should not overlook one angle: It is catch-as-cash-can here in North Carolina.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Office of the Field Director
American National Red Cross
Hqs. 25th Infantry Division
APO 25
San Francisco, California.
3, Feb. 1953.

Mrs. Bessie Carr,
Black Mountain-Swannanoa
Chapter American Red Cross,
Black Mountain, N. C.

Dear Mrs. Carr:

I just want you to know what we are doing over here. For some time we here in Korea have been thinking of writing to you and telling you how much we appreciate the fine work which your chapter is doing—particularly as it regards servicemen and their families.

First: Maybe we can give you a picture of how our people work over here and something of the background of this country so you may understand some of our problems. As you know, Korea is a very rugged country, both in terrain and in temperature. The mountains which compose the larger part of Korea are very steep and in some places it is next to impossible for human being to climb them. This, of course, makes fighting very difficult for our men.

McFalls Takes Course At Army School In Japan