

# CHRISTMAS



## The Alleghany Times



DEVOTED TO THE CIVIC, ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT OF ALLEGHANY COUNTY

Volume No. 15.

GALAX, VA. (Published for Sparta, N. C.) THURSDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1939.

Number 32.

### This Week in Washington

Washington, Dec. 20 (AS)—The second regular session of the 76th Congress meets on Jan. 3, but the army of lobbyists for a hundred special interests has been on the job for several weeks, and every returning member is made aware, by more or less devious means of communication, that it would be smart for him to vote for this, that or the other proposal—or else.

"Or else" in a year when all the Representatives come up for re-election calls for little explanation. Of course, it is never—or hardly ever—put as bluntly as to say to a member of Congress that if he doesn't vote for a given proposal the heat will be turned on and he will lose a lot of votes which would be extremely useful in his district. But when it is considered that practically half of the members now sitting got in by such close margins that a shift of only a thousand or so votes would have elected the other fellow, it would seem as if it wouldn't take much more than a hint to swing a good many members' votes.

That is the popular notions of the way the lobbyists work. It has been made the theme of many a romantic piece of fiction, and a lot of folks who don't know how the wheels actually go round in Washington are inclined to think of their Congressmen as rather spineless weaklings concerned with nothing but their own personal continuance in office. That is a wrong picture, for several reasons.

#### High Principles

First, it is not as easy to influence the average Congressman or Senator to vote in favor of any measure which he does not honestly believe is for the public welfare, as many folk think it is. The average of high and honorable principles, on every question of importance that comes up for consideration in Congress, is probably higher than in any other legislative body in the world. There are honest differences of opinion, and a preference to follow the party leadership, but the record of the first session of this Congress carries its own evidence that there are many members who put their honest convictions above party policy.

To be sure, there will be a lot of votes cast, and on important questions, because of their possible effect upon the success of one party or the other; but on the whole, the controversial issues will be determined by the majority opinion of their merits.

There is no likelihood of a short session. There will be too many questions on which members of both parties will want to put themselves on record, for one thing. And for another, the activities of the lobbies, working with pressure-blocks inside of Congress will be greater than in the first session.

Possibly more controversy will be aroused over the tax situation than on any other one subject. It is difficult for outside observers to see how increased taxes can be avoided, if even part of the President's program for enlarging the national defenses is carried through. And on that matter the belief in Washington is that the public is pretty solidly behind the President.

**Better Feeling Toward Business**  
The problem is how to raise the additional billion or so without cutting essential expenses in other fields, and without adding to the tax burden on business.

There is a much more tender feeling toward business apparent here than there has been in the past. The force of the argument of business interests that they cannot put more men to work if they are not allowed to make profits is being felt at both ends of Pennsylvania Avenue. The only alternative to increasing (turn to page 5, please)

### The German luxury liner Columbus was scuttled

—Tuesday night to thwart a British man-of-war which was hot on her wake. The liner was aflame and sinking in the Atlantic Tuesday night while an American naval cruiser performed a dramatic rescue of the entire Columbus crew of 579.

The 32,381-ton liner, third largest in the Nazi merchant marine, had slipped out of Vera Cruz, Mexico, last Thursday in a desperate attempt to elude the British fleet and possibly reach Europe—but her gamble failed.

First word of her grim end came from the U. S. Cruiser Tuscaloosa, which flashed that she was being scuttled about 400 miles east of Cape Henry, Va. A British destroyer was in the vicinity, the Tuscaloosa reported, but there were no signs that any hostilities had occurred.

While dusk gathered over the ocean the Tuscaloosa hastened to pick up the German seamen who, it was indicated by word received here, had pulled away from their craft in small boats. Terse, matter-of-fact messages told how the Tuscaloosa, commanded by Captain H. A. Badt, saved every last one of the Germans, including nine women who were presumed to be stewardesses.

The Tuscaloosa then headed for New York to land the German crew at Ellis Island. Behind her the sky was lit with flames, for the Columbus was aflame from stern to stern and was slowly settling to her doom.

Behind her also 22 empty lifeboats were adrift near the scene. The navy hydrographic office, on hearing this, broadcast a warning that the boats, as well as the Columbus, were menaces to navigation. The big liner, however, was not expected to remain a menace long, for officials understood that her sea valves had been opened to make her founder as fast as possible.

The Columbus had been at Vera Cruz from the beginning of the war until last week. She had put into that port hastily when the outbreak of hostilities caught her on a Caribbean cruise. When she left there she had food and fuel enough for 50 days.

Consternation was evident at the New York offices of the North German Lloyd Lines, owners of the vessel, when news of the sinking was received there.

"Oh, my God," said Manager John Schroeder, "it's one blow after the other."

A few hours earlier, however, another German ship—a freighter tentatively identified as the Arauca out of Tampico—had better luck. It fled into Port Everglades, Fla., harbor a jump ahead of a British cruiser.

First word of the dramatic end of the Columbus, which occurred only two days after the destruction of the cornered pocket battleship Graf Spee off Montevideo at Hitler's order, was flashed to the world from the Norfolk Navy Yard.

### The December meeting of the Methodist Women's

Missionary Society was held on Friday afternoon, December 15, at the home of Mrs. Beal Poole, with Mrs. R. T. Burchette associate hostess. The rooms were attractively decorated with holly, poinsettias, and other Christmas greenery.

The president, Mrs. J. T. Inskeep, presided during the business session.

At the social hour, the hostesses, assisted by Jimmy Poole, served chicken salad with accessories, fruit jello tart with whipped cream, and coffee, to sixteen guests.

Mrs. J. T. Inskeep invited the group to meet at her home at Roaring Gap for the January meeting.

### Planning Annual Visit To Sparta And Alleghany County



### Out For Governor . . .



J. M. Broughton (above), of Raleigh, who announced his candidacy for Governor of North Carolina last week, subject to the Democratic primary. He is a prominent Raleigh lawyer and Baptist leader.

### The German battleship Graf Spee was sunk

—Sunday, December 17, the Nazi pocket battleship being blown up by its crew, at the command of Adolf Hitler, to save her from defeat and destruction at the point of British naval guns.

Captain Hans Langsdorff and "every member of the crew" which went out to scuttle the Graf Spee were reported by officials to have reached safety aboard other boats before the 10,000-ton war monster, her hull shattered and her wreckage aflame from the explosions of internal mines, sank in 25 feet of water three miles from shore, within sight of the city.

The German freighter Tacoma, carrying two or three hundred members of the crew, anchored in Montevideo harbor late Sunday night. The captain immediately was arrested for violating a port-closing order earlier in the day and Uruguayan authorities said they would intern all Graf Spee crewmen who remained in Uruguayan waters. The remainder of the crew—about 700 men—were reported en route to Buenos Aires aboard tugs and launches and will surrender to the Argentine government.

### J. M. Broughton, of Raleigh, has entered the race

—for the governorship of North Carolina, his announcement as a candidate for the Democratic nomination, subject to the state-wide primary to be held May 25, 1940 having been announced Tuesday, December 12.

In making his announcement, Mr. Broughton, who is a prominent Raleigh lawyer and Baptist leader, said in part:

"In entering this campaign I do so upon my own initiative and responsibility and not as the candidate of any group, bloc or political faction. My candidacy will be addressed to all Democrats in the State. If nominated and elected, I will be under no obligation except to serve the people of North Carolina to the best of my ability."

It will be my purpose during the campaign next spring to discuss fully the issues that may arise upon all public questions in which the people are interested. I plan to speak in every county in the state, so that the people may have opportunity to hear my views on these questions and pass upon my qualifications for this high office. While it is not feasible this far in advance of the campaign to discuss in detail all public questions that may concern the people of the State, I would be unwilling to make an announcement for the office of Governor without at least stating in general my views on essential matters of government. I have no panaceas to offer, no magic formulas to propose. Sound government is the best liberalism; sane progress is the best conservatism."

### The Honor Roll for November at the Irwin School

—has been announced as follows:

First Grade—Wayne Petty, Alton Atwood and Ray Petty.

Second Grade—Vaughan Petty, Ammerlee Bobbitt and Ruby Norman.

Third Grade—Lorraine Atwood, Daynard Atwood, Kathleen Atwood, Grady Bobbitt and Annie Madge Bobbitt.

Fourth Grade—Louis Brooks.

Fifth Grade—Howard Irwin and Foster Mabe.

Sixth Grade—Chester Brooks.

Seventh Grade—Marie Jones.

THE SPARTA PUBLIC LIBRARY WILL BE CLOSED —for the Christmas holidays December 23-27, inclusive.

### His Hat In Ring . . .



W. Erskine Smith (above), of Albemarle, who announced his candidacy for Lieutenant Governor of North Carolina Monday in Albemarle, subject to the Democratic primary. He is president pro tem of the State Senate.

### Marcus Erwin was found dead in Asheville

—in his hotel room Tuesday. He was 66 years of age. Erwin was United States District Attorney for the Western District of North Carolina.

Dr. George F. Baier, Jr., Buncombe County coroner, said a heart attack was the cause of death. Indications were, he said, that Erwin had been stricken shortly after he went to bed Monday night, apparently as he was reading a newspaper. His eyeglasses were still on and the paper was found lying in front of him.

Erwin was a native of this county and a member of one of the first families to settle in that region. His father, Major Marcus Erwin, served in both the Mexican and Civil wars.

### A dance will be held in the Sparta High School Gym

—tonight (Thursday), from 9:30 to 1:30 o'clock. Music will be furnished by Carl Helms and his orchestra, of Hickory.

An urgent invitation is extended to the public to attend.

SANTA CLAUS WILL BE AT SMITHEY'S STORE HERE —tomorrow (Friday) and Saturday, and parents are cordially invited to take the kiddies to the store to see him.

### Leo and Gene Irwin have received recent promotions

—in Washington, D. C., where they are employed. They are sons of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Irwin, Twin Oaks.

Leo, who has been employed by Surplus Commodities Corporation since August, 1938, and is attending George Washington University, at night, received a promotion in July, 1939, and was promoted to the post of assistant clerk, with the Bureau of Statistics, December 5.

Gene, who has been employed by Washington Properties, Inc., operators of a chain of hotels, as stock room clerk, since January 15, 1939, was promoted December 1, to manager of the garage operated in connection with the Wardman Park Hotel. Each promotion carries with it a reasonable raise in salary.

### W. Erskine Smith has announced his candidacy

—for the office of lieutenant governor of North Carolina. The announcement was made Monday in Albemarle. The announcement was made, subject to the action of the Democratic party in the state-wide primary to be held on May 25, 1940.

Mr. Smith is a prominent Albemarle citizen, and president pro tem of the North Carolina Senate.

"I am a candidate for the Democratic nomination for Lieutenant Governor of North Carolina," Senator Smith's formal statement read, "I have represented my senatorial district in every session of the Senate since 1927 in which Stanly County was entitled to a Senator, with one exception. I feel that this legislative experience will be helpful to me in the discharge of the duties of Lieutenant Governor. If nominated and elected, it will be my ambition to discharge the duties of this high office fairly and impartially to all, having in mind at all times the best interest of North Carolina and its entire citizenship."

At the last election Senator Smith was nominated and elected to the North Carolina Senate without opposition, and was also elected President pro tem of that body without opposition, which is indicative of the esteem in which he is held by his constituency and his colleagues in the Senate. He was born and reared in Stanly County, and is a son of R. L. Smith, Dean of the Stanly County Bar, and one of the state's outstanding citizens and attorneys. Incidentally, R. L. Smith, Sr., preceded his son as President pro tem of the Senate for forty years, having served as President pro tem of the 1899 Senate of North Carolina.

The candidate for Lieutenant Governor is a graduate of the Duke University Law School, having completed his law course there in 1921 when the institution was Trinity College, and when Dr. Samuel Fox Mordecai was Dean of the school. Since he completed this law course he has practiced his profession in Albemarle and is recognized as one of the most capable attorneys in the state.

A member of Central Methodist Church, Senator Smith has been a teacher of a Sunday School class of young men for a number of years.

**A CHRISTMAS PROGRAM IS TO BE PRESENTED** —at the Sparta Methodist Church tonight (Thursday) at seven o'clock.

There will also be a Christmas tree.

Everyone is invited to attend.

**THE ALLEGHANY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS** —will hold the regular January meeting on Tuesday, January 2, instead of the regular meeting day—the first Monday — which falls on New Year's Day.

### R. L. Doughton was heard in Boone Tuesday

—and provided students of Appalachian State Teachers College there, and faculty members, with first-hand information in American government.

The Alleghany County congressman, who represents the North Carolina Ninth Congressional District and who is chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, appeared in a chapel discussion relative to the function of Congress.

Dr. B. B. Dougherty, president of Appalachian State Teachers College, introducing Doughton, acclaimed him one of the greatest scholars in America. Despite the fact he has never attended a college or university Dr. Dougherty said "our congressman had found Congress a great college within itself."

"Following activities since he joined the 62nd Congress 29 years ago, Congressman Doughton cited the legislative body as the only clearing house to which people can look for service. Congress he said, 'is moving faster than it has in all history, mainly because all walks of life have felt its importance to their welfare.'"

In view of current problems, Doughton expressed his opinion on balancing the budget in the United States. "If it is feasible," he explained "I believe a closer alliance of the ways and means committee, who raise the revenue on the one hand and the appropriations committee who voice the expenditure on the other hand could be formed."

In conclusion the speaker issued a challenge for more diligent study of government. "We ought to know who to send and what our representatives are doing. There's nothing more important to the people of all walks of life than our government. If it fails all fails and we ought to familiarize ourselves with its weak and strong points."

### Garner is believed to be in the race

—for president to stay, and was cast by political friends in Washington, D. C., yesterday in the role of the chief—and thus far, the only—anti-third term candidate of the Democratic party following his announcement at Uvalde, Tex., that he would accept the presidential nomination.

Garner's 44-word statement was generally interpreted as putting him in the race to stay, whether or not President Roosevelt seeks a third term.

Garner's friends explained, however, that this did not mean the vice-president was running as an anti-Roosevelt candidate. It meant, they said, that while Garner was in sympathy with many New Deal objectives, he felt that no man should have a third term.

Thus the quiet campaign which has been carried on by Garner workers for months was expected to be brought into the open immediately, aimed largely at solidifying the elements of the party which are against Roosevelt for a third term for one reason or another.

The president, at Hyde Park, had no comment on the vice-president's announcement. Similarly, Frank M. McHale, McNutt's campaign manager, declined comment at Chicago.

### LIBERTY WOMEN'S MISSIONARY UNION

—will hold its regular monthly meeting at the home of Mrs. F. W. Cheek this (Thursday) afternoon, at two o'clock. All members are urged to attend.