

Don't miss the Leap Year Proposal contained in the coupon over on page four. You don't get Leap Year offers every year.

ALLEGHANY TIMES

The Times office is upstairs, over the Watchmaker, opposite the Post Office, IN SPARTA, "Come up and see us some time."

Vol. 15. No. 39.

SPARTA, Alleghany County, N. C., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1940.

3c Per Copy

More than 9,250 North Carolina families,

—who were refinanced by the Home Owners' Loan Corporation, when they faced the loss of their homes through foreclosure only a few years ago, today are clearly on their way to debt-free home ownership, or already have achieved that goal.

Of these borrowers, HOLC State Manager C. Abernethy reports, 950 have paid in \$2,196,410 to cross off their debts in full. Some 8,308 others either are entirely current, less than three months in arrears, or are meeting all current bills and, in addition, making regular monthly payments to liquidate their arrearages.

Still 1,637 others are making adjusted payments sufficient to keep their accounts active, and we expect the great majority to rehabilitate themselves," said Mr. Abernethy. "Considering that the average borrower was two years delinquent in both principal and interest, and between two and three years on taxes when he was refinanced, the record proves that what most of our borrowers needed was only a fair chance—embodied in long-term loans at a low interest rate—to overcome the hardships the depression forced upon them."

In all, North Carolina borrowers have paid back \$8,317,931 or approximately 25 per cent of their entire principal indebtedness.

The other side of the picture—the manner in which the Corporation is liquidating the properties it has been forced to acquire and which came to it through voluntary deed or abandonment—also was given by Mr. Abernethy.

The HOLC now owns 341 homes in North Carolina and, in addition, has \$3,093,209, about \$833,200 below their capitalized value—representing a back loss of \$802 a home—in addition to selling costs which included commissions of \$181,304.

"But into that capitalized value was written not only the unpaid balance of the mortgage loan, including unpaid advances and interest, but also delinquent taxes which may amount to hundreds of dollars, foreclosure costs, and the

(turn to page 2, please)

An Historical Society for Alleghany County

—has been suggested, and it would seem that much good work might be done. How many would be interested in such a society remains to be seen. If those who are interested will communicate with the Times editor, even by post card, some plans can be made for further steps.

The editor himself is deeply interested in gathering all possible information about the history of the Alleghany newspapers that have preceded the present Times. If any copies of the Alleghany Star are in existence they should be treasured, as also the Democrat and the Eagle—which had a brief existence.

Don't Miss It: You know that suit needs cleaning; "turn to page 4, please" and read "Wake Up."

Sincere Thanks

To the Towns of Independence and Galax, and particularly to their Fire Departments, for the very prompt and energetic manner in which you responded to our call for help during our emergency in the fire of last Thursday night, we wish thus publicly to express our deep gratitude and offer our most sincere thanks. You stopped the spread of our fire and saved us from further serious loss. We thank you.

THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL

February 5, 1940

SPARTA, N. C.

Topia

Topia, Feb. 5.—Miss Lucille Black, Eugene Black and P. C. Edwards made a business trip to West Jefferson Saturday.

W. I. Caudill, who is 77 years of age, and has lived near the river the greater part of this time, had a new experience last Monday, when he walked on the ice across New River.

Mrs. Delia Pugh spent Thursday afternoon with Mrs. Belle Blevins.

Miss Lorene Moxley visited Misses Irene and Doris Blevins Saturday afternoon.

Miss Velma Pugh and Guy Pugh spent Wednesday with Mr. and Mrs. Steven Ward, Crumpler. Mr. Ward has been ill for some time.

A candy-making was given in the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Blevins Saturday night, entertaining a number of young people of this community.

Jarvis Blevins and Ray Fields visited Mr. and Mrs. Carey Blevins Sunday afternoon.

Twin calves were born to a Guernsey cow, owned by D. M. Pugh, on Wednesday night of last week. They are prospects of a fine yoke of work cattle in the near future.

Rev. Ben Williams spent Saturday night with Steven Ward, of Crumpler, who is ill.

Permits are necessary before burning brush

—on or near woodlands during the forest fire season months. The public laws of North Carolina

provide that: It shall be unlawful for any person, firm or corporation to start or cause to be started any fire or ignite any material in any of the areas of woodlands under the protection of the State Forest Service or within five hundred feet of any such protected area, between the first day of February and the fifteenth day of June, inclusive, or between the fifteenth day of October and the thirtieth day of November, inclusive, in any year, without first obtaining from the State Forester or one of his duly authorized agents a permit to set out fire or ignite any material in such above mentioned protected area; no charge shall be made for the granting of said permits.

This Act shall not apply to any fires started or caused to be started within five hundred feet of a dwelling house.

Any person, firm or corporation violating this Act shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction shall be fined not more than fifty dollars, or imprisoned for a period of not more than thirty days.

Permits cost nothing, and this law is designed to protect your woodlands. So, for a permit, see your County Forest Warden, R. D. Gentry, at the Court House.

Town Council of Sparta has ordered 1,100 feet of fire

—hose, of Goodyear manufacture, with all necessary couplings and nozzles, from the American LaFrance Corporation of Atlanta, as decided at the Council meeting held in Mayor Crouse's office Tuesday.

Sparta's fire last Thursday night destroyed the

—Baptist Church, the Alleghany Motor Co. building and the Greenland Cafe and Pool Room, with a loss of \$40,000. Insurance covered about 25 per cent of the loss on the church and the Motor Sales building.

The fire originated near the furnace in the basement of the Motor Sales building, and was discovered very early. Heroic efforts were made to extinguish it, but lack of means and lack of organization gave the flames the opportunity to work their way up into the rear of the building, and then they raged beyond control. Time did allow the removal of new cars from the street show-room and the saving of some office equipment.

From the Baptist Church two pianos and all the new pews were removed, as also some books. From the Greenland Cafe considerable equipment was removed, but the pool tables perished.

When the fire had the Motor Sales building enveloped in flame the moderate wind from the west sealed the fate of the Baptist Church on the south, which stood very close. Both buildings burned fiercely and went down together.

The Greenland Cafe and Pool Room on the north was separated by a brick wall, which hindered the progress of the fire but did not prevent its destructive work. The slowness of the burning of the Cafe, plus the fact of Smithey's Department Store next door having a solid wall of stone toward the narrow alley, as also the fact of the wind blowing slightly away from Smithey's, accounts largely for its remaining unscathed.

The story on the south is not so good. The smoke and flame and sparks from the church hovered over Mrs. Etta Reeves' house like a demon, aided by the wind. Her house was doomed and the roof began to burn. Someone remembered a single length of fire hose in the north part of town. It was hurriedly brought and attached to a street water hydrant near, and the fire was held—barely under control—when here came the hose truck from Independence. Their streams soon assured us Mrs. Reeves' house would stay, and that removed the imminent danger of houses across the street catching. Without the timely arrival of the energetic Independence Fire Dept. none can say what Sparta's story today might be. It would most probably be very different.

Soon after things looked a trifle better, the Galax Fire Dept. arrived from their 28 mile trip, and Sparta breathed a great sigh of relief in the knowledge that now the fire would be held indeed.

Beginning about 8:15 p. m. the fire wreaked its worst between 9. and 10. By 10:30 it was apparent our men, aided by Independence and Galax trucks and men, had the mastery. A hose truck came also from Elkin, but fortunately was not needed—as it might so very easily have been.

In the Motor Sales building several cars in storage and a stock of some 20 used cars were destroyed, as also the truck belonging to Sparta town.

The town is stunned by this fire, coming so close upon the greater fire of Jan. 7, 1933. But Sparta is not dismayed. A new water supply system is about ready for acceptance from the engineers. The town council has opened bids on hose and fire-fighting equipment. The Presbyterian Church was immediately offered to the Baptists for their Sunday School and services, and accepted. And today, the note in Sparta is one of courage, confidence, and high hope for the future.

Mt. Zion

Piney Creek P. O., Feb. 5.—Rev. T. A. Plyler filled his regular appointment at Mt. Zion Sunday, and was a dinner guest in the home of Rev. and Mrs. R. L. Billings.

Mrs. Oscar Moxley, Topia, visited her father, Lee Black, last week. Mr. Black's condition does not improve.

Little Miss Joyce Billings, youngest daughter of Rev. and Mrs. R. L. Billings, celebrated her seventh birthday recently.

Last week, J. F. Shepherd moved Mrs. Mary Cox and George Cox to his home, to care for them



Sparta Local News

Mr. and Mrs. Chester of Belk's were in Charlotte Tuesday buying spring merchandise for the store.

Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Wood, Bobbie Wood and Miss Rowena Wood have returned to their home in Pearisburg, Va., after attending the funeral of R. E. Hawthorne.

Mrs. C. R. Deeds, Cincinnati, Ohio, is with her mother, Mrs. R. E. Hawthorne, this week.

Among those from a distance attending the funeral of R. E. Hawthorne were Dr. James Davis, and Dr. Sam Holbrook, Statesville, N. C.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Black spent the week end with Mr. and Mrs. Luther Delp.

Mrs. Paul Carpenter is spending this week with her mother, Mrs. Susie Billings, Piney Creek.

Mr. and Mrs. James Doughton and Howard Rector of Lenoir spent the week-end in Sparta.

Charles Castevens who is a student at Emory and Henry College, Virginia, spent the week-end with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Castevens.

Mrs. Robert Andrews is visit-

ing relatives in Winston-Salem this week.

Dick Doughton, student at Appalachian State Teacher's College, spent the week-end with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Doughton.

Preston Reeves spent the week-end in Boone.

Dr. and Mrs. Wayne Richardson of Boone spent the week-end with relatives in Sparta.

Mr. and Mrs. John W. Greene of Boone, visited Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Reeves Tuesday.

Mrs. Troy Irwin is much improved from her recent illness.

Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Baumgardner of North Wilkesboro are guests of Mrs. Maude I. Richardson.

Duke Bledsoe, who suffered such a loss in the burning of the Alleghany Motor Sales building, expresses gratitude to all those who helped remove cars and equipment from the sales room.

Dick Gentry's sister, Mrs. Frank Maxium, is very seriously ill in a hospital in New York city.

“Leap Year Proposal.”—there it is on page four, for your acceptance.

James Caudill, Burton Landreth, Piney Creek, and Howard Smith, of this community, accompanied by their Agriculture teacher, L. K. Boyer, of Piney Creek High School, made a business trip to Boone recently, to attend a seed-judging contest.

Levon Church, Scottville, visited Edna Rae Smith recently.

W. F. Pugh is ill.

Mrs. George F. Smith visited Mrs. S. E. Smith Saturday.

Edna Rae Smith visited Irene

Twin Oaks

Twin Oaks, Feb. 5.—Martin Crouse left Friday by bus for his home in Coatesville, Pa., after spending a month with relatives here.

Mr. and Mrs. Mack Atwood were called to Mount Airy Sunday on account of the death of Mrs. Atwood's mother, Mrs. Center, who was buried near Mount Airy Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Bare have moved into the house recently occupied by Mrs. Stella York, who is spending the winter in Washington, D. C. Mrs. Bare is expecting to operate Twin Oaks Switchboard.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Morton, Fries, Va., spent the week-end at Wm. E. Morton's home.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Thompson, Washington, D. C., called on friends here Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Claude Crouse and son, Farrel, visited friends here Sunday night.

Sergeant Elmer Crouse, U. S. Army, who has been stationed at Fort Hoyle, Md., for the past four years, has been transferred to Fort Knox, Ky., to train men. Sergeant Crouse (better known here as "Red") is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Monroe Crouse, Forest Hill, Md., and the grandson of the late Haywood Estep, of Stratford, N. C.

A. G. Shores, of Winston Salem stopped with friends here Sunday.

Among those visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Bare Sunday were Mr. and Mrs. Reo Miller, Laurel Springs, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Bare and family, Stratford.

Mrs. O. D. Hapner is spending a few days with her mother, Mrs. L. A. Jones, Scottville.

W. H. Handy local merchant, received a painful injury Monday afternoon when a heavy board fell from above his garage door, striking him across the head.

Mrs. Mack Atwood returned home Wednesday after spending a few days with relatives at Mt. Airy following the death and funeral of her mother, Mrs. Albert Center.

Howard Wagoner, Robert Evans, and Howard Brown returned to CCC camp at Laurel Springs Sunday after spending the week-end with homefolks.

Ralph Redd has returned to the home of his mother, Mrs. Verna Redd after spending several months traveling to various parts of the world.

Misses Louise and Ella Edwards visited friends here last week.

Mrs. Clay Edwards was called to the bedside of her mother, Mrs. Russell, Elk Creek, Va., last week.

Miss Zinna Crouse of Dobson spent last week with her mother, Mrs. Mary Crouse.

and Levon Church, Scottville, last week.

Mrs. Charlie Osborn is recovering from a recent illness.

Better grab opportunity when you can. See "Wake Up" on page 4.

Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America

—recently issued a statement opposing any permanent United States diplomatic relationship with the Vatican, but declaring a “strictly temporary, unofficial” appointment “may help to bring peace.” Myron C. Taylor recently was appointed by President Roosevelt as his personal representative to the Vatican.

Home gardens can earn AAA cash payments under a

—new practice added to the N. C. program, and farm families can earn payment for planting one-tenth of an acre for each person in the family, announces E. Y. Floyd, AAA executive officer. This is the only State in the East-Central region offering this.

A payment of \$150 can be earned by planting a garden consisting of not less than one-tenth of an acre per person, and preferably planted as one unit. However, not more than a one-acre garden will be required per family.

The garden must be adequately protected from poultry and livestock. Good cultural methods should be followed and proper steps taken to control insect pests. Irish potatoes, sweet potatoes, corn, and field peas may be planted elsewhere on the farm.

The recommendations of the State AAA committee are that three or more different vegetables shall be growing in the garden each month for at least eight months of the year. Not more than one-fourth of the garden area should be planted to any one vegetable at any one time.

Floyd explained that this is in line with the change in the 1940 AAA program to encourage conservation practices not commonly in use on the majority of the farms in the State. He called gardens “human conservation.”

The home demonstration leaders, specialists and agents, and the Extension horticulturists are largely responsible for having a garden practice added to the 1940 program in North Carolina.

An American Dairy Association was formed in St. Paul,

—Minnesota, last week to promote a national advertising campaign for increasing consumption of dairy products. The Association will be incorporated in Illinois with headquarters in Chicago. It will function as a parent organization to co-operate with state dairy industry groups and national dairy industry organizations.

To the Independence and Galax Fire Departments:

Realizing how much your coming meant in the saving of my home from fire on the night of Feb. 1st, I desire to express publicly my sincere thanks and appreciation.

Also, to the Sparta friends who so loyally helped in the same emergency I offer my deepest gratitude.

MRS. D. C. REEVES

SPARTA, FEB. 8, 1940.

Your Government...

how familiar are you with it? The CONSTITUTION—4. At what age do persons born in the United States become citizens of the United States? 5. Does the Constitution prevent Congress from infringing upon the right of a citizen to keep a gun in his house? 6. Does the following phrase, “Governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed” appear in the Constitution?