



THE ROUNDER

AND THE NEWS LEADER

LARGEST CIRCULATION
—OF—
ANY NEWSPAPER IN
IREDELL COUNTY

SINGLE COPY 5 Cents.

MOORESVILLE, N. C., THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1937

VOL. 15, No. 15

ROUNDER TO CHANGE ITS NAME

News Leader Will Be Name Adopted

Robert Vedernack Had Gun In Jail

Picked Up Officer's Pistol Following Wreck

Robert Vedernack, 17-year-old convict, one of the trio of prisoners which Sheriff Smoot of Davie county was conveying to Newton Monday night when his car was wrecked on the Mocksville road at Crouch's Tavern, east of Statesville, is being confined Thursday in a cell in the Iredell county jail. Vedernack, who claims Pennsylvania as his native state, was landed in jail there following the wreck when Sheriff Smoot and one prisoner were taken to the Davis hospital and one prisoner escaped.

It was revealed Thursday that a 32-caliber Smith and Wesson pistol was found concealed inside Vedernack's clothing Tuesday afternoon, the prisoner admitted that he picked up a pistol dropped in the wrecked automobile by one of the deputy sheriffs. It is understood that he was planning to make his escape from jail by means of the deadly weapon which he had.

Albert Hager, the prisoner who escaped at the time of the wreck on the Mocksville road Monday night, had not been taken today. Sheriff Smoot and the other prisoner, Jim Coker, who were injured in the wreck remain at the hospital.

MOORESVILLE HIGH SENIORS CHOOSE SUPERLATIVES

The Mooresville High School class of '38 chose their superlatives last Thursday. The outcome was the following: Best all round, Lois Howard, Jess Harwell; best looking, Lois Howard, Howard Miller; most athletic, Lois Howard, Jess Harwell; most courteous, Lucy Lowrance, Howard Miller; most popular, Lois Howard, Grace Alexander (a tie); Jess Harwell; laziest, Grace Alexander, David Atwell; cutest girl, Carolyn Troutman; ladies man, Jess Harwell; wittiest, Lucy McNeely, Karl Barger; most intellectual, Sarah Taylor, Howard Miller; best personality, Annie Davidson, Jess Harwell, W. D. Branch (a tie); class flirt, Sarah Taylor; most conceited, Bertha Kennerly, Karl Barger; neatest, Frances Howard, Howard Miller, Karl Brager (a tie); silliest, Martha Nesbit, David Creswell; most bashful, Ruth Starne, Rankin McNeely; most studious, Virginia Sloop, W. D. Branch; most dignified, Laura Smith, Karl Barger.

Services on Christmas Eve at the Troutman Methodist Church

Troutman, Dec. 20.—Special services will be conducted at Troutman Methodist church, Christmas eve, at 6:30 o'clock. At this time, the pastor, Rev. Mr. Varner, will preach, and a program of Christmas music will be rendered. Gifts and treats for every member of the Sunday School will be distributed. Every member of the Sunday school, young and old alike, are urged to be present and have a part in this service. Firadey evening in the church auditorium.

Bank Takes Holidays

Mr. C. F. McNeely, cashier of the First National Bank, states that the Bank will be closed all day Saturday, Christmas day. It will also close one week from Saturday, New Year's Day.

To Be Effective On January 6th

Many Reasons Given For Dropping The Name "The Rounder"

(BY THOMAS MCKNIGHT)

When the writer purchased a half interest in this publication two years ago he was cognizant of the fact that its name, **The Rounder**, was hardly the proper one for a journal that hoped to become a dignified newspaper. At that time we discussed with dozens of people the advisability of changing the name. The bulk of opinion gleaned from these discussions was to the effect it was not the opportune moment. There were several reasons for this opinion. In the first place, we were not yet a newspaper, but a small four-column handbill distributed free, and having no postal recognition. In the second place, another such publication, the **Free Press**, had been spawned in our midst. It was a well known fact that both publications could not survive. Since **The Rounder** had a two-year start on the new publication, it was deemed wise to make use of its familiar name at that time.

The situation is quite different today. Within two years we have become a bona fide newspaper with legal recognition, have consolidated with another weekly, and have the largest circulation of any newspaper in any field published in Iredell county. After 17 issues the **Free Press** gave up the struggle. We can see no reason why the time has not arrived when we may change the name of the paper without damages to us or inconvenience to our patrons.

The question may be asked, "What's wrong with the name, **The Rounder**?" There are many answers, one of the best being found in Webster's unabridged dictionary. Says the dictionary concerning the definition of "rounder": (1) "a tool used to make an object round in shape." (2) "one who makes the rounds of criminal or disreputable resorts; a habitual, petty criminal; a tough, dissolute idler." It may be just "One Man's Opinion," but the writer feels that the definitions do not fit this newspaper.

The name has often been a subject of much embarrassment to us. Frequently we get letters addressed to "The Roundup," or "The Bouncer." Whether they be puns or honest errors, we have no way of knowing. Perhaps our most embarrassing moment came last year at the Duke-Colgate game. We were riding with Jake Wade, Alan Gould, and Ted Husing from the hotel to the Duke stadium. Just back of the stadium and behind the press and radio boxes is a space reserved for the press cars. At the entrance to the lane leading to this space a policeman is stationed. When Jake stopped for identification the policeman recognized him but glanced questionably at Ted, Alan and me. Said Jake, nodding at each of us in turn: "Mr. Gould of the Associated Press, Mr. Husing of the Columbia Broadcasting Company, and Mr. McKnight of the —uh, uh, of the Observer." When we had passed out of hearing range of the cop Jake turned to us and said, "Tom, why in the hell don't you change the name of that paper of yours? Jake certainly had something there!"

Not only is the name a source of frequent social embarrassment but it has worked against us in the matter of soliciting national (Continued on Page Eight)

J. F. Bowles Dies In Statesville

BURIED LAST SUNDAY

Succumbs After Brief Illness of Heart Trouble; Was Head of Department Store

Statesville, Dec. 17.—John F. Bowles, 72, widely known merchant and traveling salesman, president of the Ramsey-Bowles Department store, died this afternoon at the H. F. Long hospital where he had been a patient since the first of the month after suffering from heart trouble.

Mr. Bowles, a native of Olin, this county, had been living in Statesville since he was a boy. He was a clerk for various local mercantile establishments for a number of years before he became a traveling salesman, representing various business houses. He traveled for John E. Hurst and company of Baltimore for 27 years, leaving the road in 1926 in order to devote his entire time to his store here.

He had been connected with the Ramsey-Bowles Department store since its organization 40 years ago, and served as president for a number of years before his death.

He was a member of the Statesville school board at the time of his death. He was a director in the First National bank and for a number of years was a director of the North Carolina Railway.

He had been a lifelong member of the Methodist church and for many years was a member of the board of stewards of Broad Street church.

In November 1896, Mr. Bowles was married to Miss Mabel Grant of Goldsboro. Surviving are Mrs. Bowles; three sons, J. F. Bowles, Jr., of New York City; Louis G. Bowles of Lexington, and William C. Bowles of Statesville; a daughter, Mrs. Stanford Webb of Asheville. Funeral services were held Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock at Broad Street Methodist church. Interment was followed in the family plot in Oakwood cemetery.

Miss Mary Christmas Likes Her Name But Not The Wisecracks

Evansville, Ind., Dec. 17.—Mary Christmas, of Poseyville, pretty 18-year-old business college student, likes her name but not the wisecracks it brings.

With a smile she explained today: "People say, 'glad to know you, Miss Merry Christmas. My name is Happy New Year.' They say it as they'd say, 'so's your old man.'"

"It's very inconsiderate." For ten centuries, she said, parents of every other generation of the Christmas family have named one girl Mary after the mother of the child of Bethlehem.

550 Alabama Convicts Are Given Two Weeks Paroles for a Merry Christmas

Montgomery, Ala., Dec. 17.—Toward the east, west, north and south today went 550 happy men and women—all of them Alabama convicts—intent upon a "merry Christmas" while their two weeks "gift paroles" last.

Large and small, negro and white, the convicts marched through clanging doors to freedom—awarded for exemplary conduct by Governor Bibb Graves in a custom of 10 years standing. They're pledged—"word of honor"—to return when their leave is up. In the past, 20 of the estimated 4,000 parolees have broken their word.

Seven failed to report on time a year ago and that set a record. Once a negro fell below a freight train and lost a leg en route back. From a Tuscaloosa hospital bed he begged doctors to tell authorities he'd been "delayed." Two others, at different times, lost their lives while "rid-

HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTS PAGEANT

"Christmas Night," a pageant was presented by the seventh grade and high school on Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock, under the supervision of Miss Selma Johnston, Miss Welch and Miss Thompson.

The program opened with Rev. L. E. Blackwelder, of the St. Mark's Lutheran Church, reading scripture and offering prayer.

The High School Band, under the direction of Mr. Babcock, of Davidson College, played "Silent Night, Holy Night." This was their first public appearance.

Miss Bertha Kennerly took the part of Mary, and DeWitt Trivette was Joseph in depicting the manger scene.

Harmony School Has An Unusually Long Honor Roll

The Perfect Attendance and Honor Rollers of the Harmony School have been announced. All grades are represented by a gratifying number of students who have thus demonstrated their interest and ability in achieving this high honor.

These young people are to be congratulated on attaining this recognition and deserve the applause that comes to them. This paper sincerely regrets that space will not permit listing them all, as well as similar groups in other city and county schools, but there are times when this is next to impossible, and this is one of them.

A. L. Loftin Pinned Under Horse Which Fell Into A Ditch

Mr. A. L. Loftin, Statesville, Route 2, narrowly escaped serious injury late Monday afternoon when the horse which he was riding fell in a ditch and Mr. Loftin was pinned beneath the horse. Except for bruises, Mr. Loftin apparently is uninjured. He will remain at Davis Hospital a few days for observation.

Judge Gets Annual Card From Prisoner

Buffalo, N. Y., Dec. 20.—Supreme Court Justice Alonzo G. Hinkley, who nine years ago imposed a mandatory life sentence on Walter Sarnowski as a fourth offender, received yesterday his ninth Christmas card from prisoner No. 43,274 at Auburn penitentiary.

This time, however, the card came with an inlaid wooden box, bearing an intricate series of designs worked in match sticks. "The jewel box," said a notation on Prisoner Sarnowski's Christmas card, "is for Mrs. Hinkley. Season's greetings."

Mae's Radio Talk Criticized

Washington, D. C., Dec. 17.—The Federal Communications commission ordered the National Broadcasting company to submit a copy of Mae West's "Adam and Eve" broadcast of last Sunday night, asserting it had received letters the skit was "profane, indecent and insulting to the American people."

The commission said it had not prejudged the matter but would reserve judgement until it had the facts.

Chairman Frank R. McNinch transmitted the demand to officials of the National Broadcasting company. He told them that the commission had no right to censor broadcast but pointed out a clause prohibiting obscene language over the radio.



"IS THERE A SANTA CLAUS?"

(Note: On September 20, 1897, the editor of the New York Evening Sun received a letter from an eight-year-old child, asking if there was a Santa Claus. The next day the editor of the Sun published a reply to the letter. Each Christmas for the past 34 years this letter has been reprinted on the front page of The Sun. It is considered one of journalism's classics of all time. This paper printed it last Christmas, and we are reprinting it this year, together with the letter from the child.)

"We take pleasure in answering at once and thus prominently the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author is numbered among the friends of the Sun:

"Dear Editor:
I am 8 years old.
Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus.
Papa says 'if you see the Sun it's so.'
Please tell me the truth: is there a Santa Claus?"

Virginia O'Hanlon
115 West 95th Street"

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no

poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the Chimneys on Christmas eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You tear apart baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, or even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood."

SALVATION ARMY CHRISTMAS DINNER

The Salvation Army Christmas dinner given for the benefit of the underprivileged in this community will be held Saturday at 12 o'clock noon in the basement of the First Presbyterian Sunday School building.

Editorials Today

Athletic Situation at Davidson
An Entirely Wrong Attitude
Mr. Miller, Please!
He Borrowed Seven Cents
And This IS South Carolina!