

# The Barnwell People-Sentinel

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## Snow Covers County in Mantle of White

Prospect for First "White Christmas" in Year's Results from Sunday's Snowfall.

Snow, which began falling about noon Sunday and continued throughout the afternoon and early evening gave Barnwell and Barnwell County prospect for the first "white Christmas" in many years, although Tuesday's bright sunshine caused the fleecy blanket to begin to melt rapidly.

The snow which at times was mixed with sleet, began with a light flurry about 12 o'clock Sunday morning and in a short while was coming down in large flakes. Housetops, shrubbery and the ground were quickly covered under a white mantle, which had reached a depth of two inches or more by nightfall. The skies cleared about nine o'clock Sunday night, but Monday was again cloudy, with the temperature hovering just above the freezing point throughout the day.

A force of workmen cleared the snow from the streets and sidewalks in the business section of Barnwell, and the work was aided somewhat by a slight thaw. However, thermometers again registered below freezing temperatures Monday night and the city still sported its white covering on Christmas Eve. The day dawned fair and under the warming influence of the sun, the snow began to melt. It was believed, though, that enough would remain for a "white Christmas."

Sunday's snowfall was the heaviest this section has seen in nearly 20 years, it being recalled that three heavy snows fell here in the winter of 1917-18 within a period of about 10 days.

## CORN-HOG PAYMENTS RATE SET ABOUT SAME AS 1935

The rates of adjustment payments to farmers cooperating in the 1936-1937 corn-hog program will be approximately the same as those paid in connection with the 1935 program, County Agent Boylston says.

Farmers who comply fully with the provisions of the two-year contract will receive corn payments in 1936 at the rate of 35 cents a bushel on the number of bushels obtained by multiplying the appraised corn yield on the farm by the number of adjusted corn acres. The term "adjusted acres" refers to the land formerly planted to corn but retired from corn production under the new contract.

For example, Boylston explains, if a farmer with a corn base of 100 acres and an appraised yield of 20 bushels to the acre makes an adjustment of 20 per cent, or 20 acres, his total corn payment will amount to \$140 (35 cents times 20 bushels times 20 acres)—less the pro rata share of the local administrative expenses.

Hog adjustment payments will be made at the rate of \$1.25 a head on the number of hogs in the market hog base. In order to receive the maximum payment, however, a contract signer must produce a number of hogs between one-half of his base and the full base number. Deductions will be made at the rate of \$2.50 for each hog he fails to produce up to 50 per cent of his base and of \$5 for every hog produced in excess of his base number.

Under the 1935 contract, both corn and hog payments were made in two installments. Under the new contract, two corn payments will be made in 1936: the first, at the rate of 20 cents a bushel, about Aug. 1st or as soon as possible after first compliance is checked; and the second, at the rate of 15 cents a bushel, about Dec. 31st. Hog payments, under the "modified current production payment plan," however, will be made in one installment about Dec. 31st, 1936, or as soon as possible after final compliance has been checked and certified. As under the previous contracts, the expenses for local administration of the program will be taken out of both the corn and hog payments.

## Car Destroyed by Fire.

S. V. Brown, local veterinarian, had the misfortune to lose his Chrysler sedan by fire Saturday night, while in the Red Oak section of the county.

## Birth of a Daughter.

Mr. and Mrs. Baynard Ellis, of this city, are receiving congratulations upon the arrival Saturday morning of a lovely 8½-pound daughter.

## Seen and Heard Here During the Past Week

A Little Sense and Nonsense About People You Know and Others You Don't Know.

College girls and boys arriving home for the Christmas holidays. . . . The old home town also made lively by the arrival of other visitors. . . . Everybody shivering Saturday morning in the coldest weather of the winter, local thermometers registering only 20 degree above zero early that morning and hovering around the freezing point all day. . . . A card from Col. Harry D. Cahoun, former Barnwell resident who is now living at Bamberg, paying The People-Sentinel the following nice compliment: "Your Christmas Edition is perfectly beautiful and your enterprise is to be commended." Thanks, Colonel, for "them kind words." Most of our other subscribers seemed to take last week's issue, on which the force had spent considerable time and effort, as a matter of course. . . . Turkeys and Christmas "spirits" being sold through the medium of punchboards. . . . Brightly lighted Christmas trees on the front porches of a number of Barnwell residences. . . . Everybody (including even the owners of automobiles who are paying for the highway system) interested in the passage of special legislation in the highway muddle, and a man saying that it was remarkable how many non-owners of cars were backing Governor Johnston in his fight against the highway commission and for \$3 license tags. . . . Col. Solomon Blatt, member of the House of Representatives and Speaker Pro Tem, talking about the clash he had last week with Representative Hendrix, of Spartanburg County, during debate in the lower branch of the general assembly.

Lang Cave remarking that he doesn't think Governor Johnston "has anything against Ben Sawyer," and a bystander saying that if the happenings of the past several months have just been a little friendly pleasantry on the Governor's part he'd hate to see the Chief Executive get real peeved with anybody. . . . A negro woman, who is a former resident of Barnwell, losing control of the car she was driving at the corner of Main and Marlboro Streets and crashing into the concrete coping around the yard of Mrs. J. A. Porter's home, and the crowd that quickly gathered being disgusted with her "Northern accent," which she had acquired during a few years residence in "Noo Yawk." . . . Barnwell, with its white blanket of snow, looking like "a winter wonderland." The fall delighted the young folks and the older ones who have not grown old, but was looked upon with disfavor by merchants. . . . And folks walking "stiff-legged" in their efforts to retain their equilibrium on the slippery surface of the streets. . . . Perry Bush admitting to Harry Boylston that there was one thing that even he did not know, which was that it does not require extremely hot water to remove the hair from a butchered hog, and Harry replying that "most everybody knows that the temperature of the water should be around 140 degrees." . . . Postmaster R. A. Deason receiving congratulations over his renomination by Congressman H. P. Fulmer, which was a fine Christmas present for the Postmaster and his assistant, Ben Davies, Jr.

## Local Teachers Leave.

The teachers of the local high school left Friday to spend the Christmas holidays as follows:

Miss Maria Neuffer to her home in Abbeville.

Miss Margaret Ellis to Darlington to visit friends.

Misses Eleese Ray and Annie Margaret Zeigler to their respective homes in Denmark.

Miss Grace League to her home in Clinton.

Miss Sue Carter to her home in Varnville.

Miss Louise McCullough to Darlington to visit friends.

Miss Mary China Stevenson to Columbia to visit relatives.

Miss Hallie Mae McKeithan to her home in Florence.

Miss Delma Burges to her home in Kingstree.

Miss Ruth Dick to her home in Dunbarton.

Mr. and Mrs. George R. Evans to Sandersville, Ga., to visit relatives.

## The Answer to Virginia.

(The most widely read editorial ever written, stated the Reader's Digest in its December, 1935, edition, appeared 36 years ago in the New York Sun, has been reprinted by the Sun annually at Christmas time ever since, and has been quoted in a score of languages the world over. This world-famous "Santa Claus editorial" was an answer to the following letter:

Dear Editor: I am eight years old. Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus. Please tell me the truth.

—Virginia O'Hanlon.

The editorial writer who was assigned to reply to Virginia at first disdained the task as trivial, then found himself warming up to a real opportunity, and finally wrote the words that millions since then have warmed to read. The answer follows:

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 in intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole truth.

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 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 to believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies. You might get your papa to hire men to watch 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 there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see.

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

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

## New Deal Is Backed Mainly by the South

Other Sections Tabulated in Literary Digest Poll Are Opposed to Roosevelt Administration.

New York, Dec. 21.—The South is almost solid for the New Deal, but all other sections of the nation represented so far in the Literary Digest's current straw vote are against the present Democratic administration, tabulations indicate.

Representing 819,320 votes from 34 States, mainly in the South and West, the poll shows 57.69 per cent. of voters answering in the negative to the controversial question: "Do you now approve the acts and policies of the Roosevelt New Deal to date?" A week ago, the anti-New Deal percentage was given as 57.24.

Eight States shown in the poll for the first time were evenly divided, Arkansas, Mississippi, Louisiana, South Carolina favored the New Deal. Wisconsin, New Hampshire, Washington and Oregon were opposed.

Seven other Southern States favor the New Deal. They are Virginia, North Carolina, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Alabama and Texas. Oklahoma and Florida have slight anti-New Deal majorities.

Other States showing negative majorities are California, Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, South Dakota, Washington, West Virginia and Wisconsin.

The 34 States reported to date contain approximately three-fourths of the population of the nation and far more than a majority of electoral college votes.

The 23 States registering opposition to the administration represent 265 electoral college votes, one vote less than a majority. The eleven Southern States shown favoring the New Deal have 128 votes in the electoral college, which names the president. The 14 States yet unheard from represent 138 votes.

Comparison of straw vote figures with the vote President Roosevelt received in 1932 indicates he has lost popularity in all States heard from, except Kentucky, where a gain in New Deal sentiment is shown.

## Santa Claus Letter.

Dear Santa Claus: Be sure and remember my little sister, Peggy and me. Love to all.

Dallis Creighton, III.

## Legislature Enacts Highway Control Act

Temporary Board Is Placed in Charge of Highway Department.—Special Session Adjourns.

Columbia, Dec. 21.—The Christmas spirit pervaded the South Carolina capitol, scene of a fierce political battle, today as Governor Olin D. Johnston signed a temporary highway control act and the legislature that passed it after a ten-day deadlock with him, adjourned.

The act, principal product of a special session convened December 10, established an emergency administration to operate the State highway department after it had been bereft of its commission by executive action and buffeted about in litigation, legislative argument, and by nearly eight weeks of military control.

Governor Johnston demobilized the national guardsmen yesterday, ending an unparalleled period in recent South Carolina government, as a conciliatory move when a joint legislative committee assented to setting up the emergency board if the troops were withdrawn.

The lawmakers rushed through a measure directing J. S. Williamson, State highway engineer, and O. P. Bourke, highway department secretary-treasurer, to operate the road bureau temporarily under a supervisory board composed of State Treasurer E. P. Miller, Comptroller General A. J. Beattie, and F. C. Robinson, sinking fund commission secretary.

Borrowing Possible. It authorized the new board to borrow necessary funds from the State treasury to run the department, whose functions had come almost to a dead halt for lack of money, while highway funds remained frozen by an injunction.

While no immediate steps were taken to have the injunction dissolved, it was reported that the State supreme court would be asked Monday to release the funds, which include federal money from which contractors on road projects would be paid. Federal road authorities at Washington indicated they would recognize the new set-up and resume allotments of federal road buildings funds.

The act was ratified and signed by the governor in less than an hour's time. By 1 p. m. the executive and general assembly exchanged wishes for "a very merry Christmas and a happy new year," and the third special session since the turn of the century adjourned.

The session was the first of its kind called to fill a vacancy in the administration of a State department. Two others, summoned by Governor Cole L. Blease in 1914 and I. C. Blackwood in 1931, sought to peg cotton prices.

Road Law Not Changed. Johnston convened the lawmakers with a request that they enact "permanent legislation" to replace a hold-over highway commission he ousted with troops October 28th and by quasi-judicial proceedings December 6th when the courts reinstated it.

He asked enactment of a bill to designate the sinking fund commission as a temporary road board and to name a new commission of 6 elected by the people.

The legislature refused to act while troops held the road offices in disregard of a supreme court decision that their use by the governor was unconstitutional.

Sharp criticism of Johnston predominated the speeches until a pact was made through a joint committee headed by Senator Lide, of Marion, and Representative Bennett, of Marlboro.

The lawmakers recognized a legal question as to the status of thirteen hold-over commissioners against whom Johnston instituted removal proceedings on misconduct charges which the politically hostile commission denied.

The legislative act established the temporary board for a maximum of sixty days, until appeals to the courts from the executive removal proceedings may be filed and heard or the legislature, reconvening in regular session January 14, may pass a permanent reorganization bill.

Bills to Be Printed. More than a dozen reorganization measures, including one for popular elections favored by the governor, three for election of commissioners by legislative delegations, and others presenting combination plans, were left with the house judiciary committee.

## Acting Postmaster Has Been Nominated

Congressman H. P. Fulmer Recommends That President Roosevelt Appoint R. A. Deason.

Congressman H. P. Fulmer advised The People-Sentinel Monday that he had requested the Hon. W. W. Howes, First Assistant Postmaster General, to recommend to President Roosevelt the appointment of R. A. Deason as postmaster at Barnwell. Mr. Deason has been acting in this capacity for the past several years, succeeding W. M. Harris, who resigned. Since that time two examinations have been held to fill the vacancy and Congressman Fulmer's recommendation that the acting postmaster be appointed to the position meets with the approval of a large majority of the patrons of the Barnwell post office.

Mr. Deason ranked first on the list of three eligibles, the other two being Charles O. Jones and W. J. Sexton. In his letter to the first assistant postmaster general, Congressman Fulmer wrote, as follows:

"I have been giving serious thought to the appointment of Postmaster at Barnwell, S. C., and from all of the information that I have been able to secure, it appears that the present acting Postmaster, Mr. Deason, who is first on the Eligible List, has been rendering efficient service, both to the Government and the patrons of the office.

"I find, also, from correspondence had with the people of Barnwell in connection with the appointment of a Postmaster that the appointment of Mr. Deason will be highly satisfactory to the citizens of Barnwell and to the patrons of the Barnwell post office.

"I, therefore, request that you recommend to the President of the United States the appointment of Robert A. Deason."

## Fire at Lyndhurst.

The many friends of Mr. and Mrs. Hay Gantt, of Lyndhurst, will regret to learn that their residence was totally destroyed by fire Friday night, together with most of their household and kitchen furniture, including several valuable heirlooms. Mr. Gantt and his family were attending a Christmas tree party at the Lyndhurst school house when the alarm was given and the flames made such rapid progress that only a part of the furniture was removed from the burning building. The loss is a heavy one, as Mr. Gantt had only recently remodeled his residence. There was no insurance on either the dwelling or the furniture.

## Was Old Landmark.

Lyndhurst, Dec. 21.—The old Gantt home at Boiling Springs, perhaps one of the oldest houses in the county, was completely destroyed by fire last evening.

The family was away for a short time, when it was suddenly seen to be enveloped in flames. Someone in passing gave the alarm, a crowd from the neighborhood immediately gathered, but the flames had gained such headway that it was impossible to subdue them.

The old house has long been one of the landmarks of the village, having stood here since sometime previous to 1849, and was for many years a center of music and many pleasant social gatherings. For some years now it has been unoccupied until about a year ago renovation work was begun, and for some months it has been the home of F. H. Gantt and family.

It is thought that the fire started from the remains of one kindled earlier in the evening, and which was thought to have been made safe before leaving the house, but which in some way spread to other parts of the room when the house was left alone.

## McSweeney Suffers Stroke.

The Barnwell County friends of Eugene B. McSweeney, of Allendale, will learn with deep regret that he suffered a severe stroke of paralysis while in Ridgeland on business one day last week. He is one of the best known newspaper men in the lower part of the State, being the publisher of papers at Allendale, Hampton and Ridgeland. It has also been learned here that one of his children is seriously ill with pneumonia. Their early and complete recovery is earnestly hoped for by their many friends.