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SPANISH WAR REUNION CHAT- TANOOGA, SEPT. 16

(By Associated Press)
National officers of the United Spanish-American War veterans who have already made reservations to attend the annual encampment here September 16-20 are Antonio Entenza, national commander-in-chief; Thomas J. Kennedy, chief of staff; George A. Marshall, adjutant general and George D. Moler, quartermaster general.

The national commander has written Major Ellsworth, Tennessee, commander-in-chief, concerning the tentative program, as follows:
"Your outline of the program to be followed at the national encampment is very pleasing indeed and meets with the hearty approval of the commander-in-chief."

The Patten hotel has been designated as convention headquarters while most of the sessions will be held in the Billy Sunday tabernacle, it is announced by Major Ellis, who is serving as chairman of arrangements.

The tentative program is as follows:

Sunday, September 16: Arrivals; registration and assignment; patriotic exercises and addresses at the Tivoli theatre in the evening.

Monday, September 17: All day business session; address of welcome, Governor Austin Peay, of Tennessee; Mayor A. W. Chamberliss, of Chattanooga, and Comrade Harvey H. Hannah; responses, by Antonio P. Entenza, commander-in-chief and other national and departmental officers; general reception in the evening.

Tuesday, September 18: Short business session, all day at Chickamauga park; reunion of the organizations camped at the park in '98; old time southern barbecue at noon; observance of the 60th anniversary of the battle of Chickamauga, September 18, 1865, and events of '98; evening illuminated night parade; all-southern show, jubilee singers, cake walking band, etc.

Wednesday, September 19: Business session in forenoon; memorial hour 11 to 12 o'clock; presentation of historic tablet to the city of Chattanooga by department of New York; afternoon: Parade, military features; business session of the Military Order of the Serpent; evening: Ball, annual crawl of the Military Order of the Serpent.

Thursday, September 20: Business session in forenoon; trip to Lookout mountain in afternoon; sunset tea on Point Lookout.

Number of noon today luncheons are being arranged by the women for the woman's auxiliary delegations.

Additional attractive features will be available, including individual and party trips to Lookout mountain, Signal mountain, Chickamauga park, Missionary ridge and many points of scenic and historic interest in and around Chattanooga, with moonlight steamboat parties and dancing down through the grand canyon of the Tennessee.

Delegations from various sections of the United States are expected.

AUDITORS FIND THAT STATE HAS DEFICIT OF ONLY \$85,468.13

By Associated Press.
Differing with the auditors employed by the state in their interpretation of the result of the audit the joint house and senate committee by the last legislature to conduct an audit of the state's finance made its report here this afternoon, to the counsel of state, headed by Governor Morrison, and in the presence of the full committee, the counsel of state and representatives of the press.

The report of the auditors committee found that there is an accumulated deficit in the general fund of June 30, 1923 of \$85,468.13 which "deficit will in our opinion be more than taken up by the revenues applicable to the period prior to December 31, 1922 which has been since collected but not taken into account by the auditors for the reason that the auditors took into account only such revenues as were collected up to and including May 18, 1923."

The committee's conclusion on the condition of finances as of June, 1923 were predicated on the elimination of the amount on liabilities of current revenues of a note for \$710,000 outstanding for a deficit in the special school fund. In eliminating this note from the outstanding committee found that the special session of 1921 has passed an act au-

WATER AND SEWERS FOR BLOWING ROCK

In compliance with a call issued by Mayor Robbins of Blowing Rock, a meeting of the citizens and others interested in a water supply for the town met at the public school house Friday evening to discuss the matter. A resolution was unanimously passed by the meeting requesting the town authorities to employ an engineer to make a preliminary survey of the sources available for a water supply and to report to the mayor and commissioners as soon as practicable. A number of gentlemen made remarks upon the necessity of an ample water supply for the town, which is imperative if the place continues to grow and develop into the health and pleasure resort it is capable of being.

Haven't Acted Yet.
The town commissioners have not yet acted on the resolution, but the mayor, who showed by his enthusiastic remarks that he is highly in favor of making the survey, thinks they will act favorably and make it. In case the town does not take active steps it is probable a private company will be formed and ask for a franchise to supply the town with water and sewers. There are a number of available sources and it will be a comparatively easy undertaking, if gone into properly. Mr. Newcombe of Pinhurst and Blowing Rock made some interesting remarks, showing how water and sewers had been secured in the town of Pinhurst amid the sandhills, and said it would be a small matter to procure it for Blowing Rock, compared with the undertaking at Pinhurst.

Left to Highway Commission
The matter of widening Main street through the village came up for discussion, and it seemed to be the sense of the meeting for the highway commission to do what it thought necessary in that respect, regardless of the different opinions and wishes of the citizens.

The matter of active co-operation with the Western North Carolina Inc., organization was discussed, and Mr. W. L. Alexander, the director for Watauga, asked the hearty support and co-operation of the people of Blowing Rock in the efforts of the organization to give more publicity to our attractive part of the country.

Large Number Visitors at the Rock
The town is now in the midst of a pleasant and prosperous season. The number of visitors is large and more are coming in daily, and the delightful weather is being enjoyed by all to the fullest extent. There seems to be less disorder and friction here than for many years, and the people all seem to be enjoying good health. Horseback riding, which declined to a marked degree upon the introduction of automobiles, is coming back strong, and daily cavalcades are seen on the streets and beautiful drives, especially those over the magnificent Cone estate. Some real estate is changing hands and a number of new summer homes are in contemplation before the opening of another season. The lack of adequate water and sewer facilities is retarding the developments here and property owners are realizing that some active work must be done to remedy this condition if our town is to come into its own as a health and pleasure resort.

—By H. C. Martin, in Lenoir News-Topic.

G. J. Harrington and Miss Berlie Ellis, both of Alexander county, were happily united in marriage at the Baptist parsonage, July 17th. Ceremony was performed by Rev. F. M. Huggins.

authorizing the borrowing of an amount of \$710,000 to provide for the funds to take care of this deficit in the special school fund. This amount did not represent excessive expenditures of revenues for the current year of 1921, and the special session recognizing this fact, did not provide for it, but directed that it be funded by the current borrowing to be renewed from time to time and eventually liquidated by any surplus revenues that might arise in the future. This was made necessary in order to provide for the six months school term which was made mandatory by law.

The auditors employed to make the examination as to the state's finances on the other hand concluded that on December 31, 1923, the date on which Corporation Counsel Maxwell said that there was a \$5,000,000 deficit in the state finances, which charge caused the present audit to be made, there exists \$477,194.75.

ROAD WORK IN WATAUGA COUNTY

Feeling that the public should be kept informed about the road work of the county we take this method to set out some of our aims.

This year we will have about \$3,500.00 for upkeep work in the county. This sum being realized from the ad valorem tax of 4 or 5 cents on each \$100.00 of assessment. This is, as you will at once realize, entirely inadequate to maintain the public roads of Watauga County one year even if we do just as little as possible. If some are inclined to think that we are not doing enough on any certain section of road just remember above figures.

Next year we will be in better shape so far as funds are concerned. The present road law will allow a rate of 15 cents per \$100.00 of assessment. Assuming that the assessment this year is approximately what it was last year the road tax will amount to from ten to twelve thousand dollars.

This maintenance money will be used in all townships according to the taxes paid by each township, taking into consideration also the mileage of roads kept up by the State Highway Commission in the several townships. Some townships have several miles of road that is maintained by the State, while others have none.

A provision in the law passed by the last session of the General Assembly provides that where any township did not receive its proportionate part of the money derived from the sale of the first \$200,000.00 of bonds that more bonds must be issued to equalize those townships. (By the way, that law has teeth in it, for a penalty is attached thereto. If the County Commissioners failed to issue said bonds.) Pursuant to that law finding that some townships had not received their part of the money from the first bond, the County Commissioners issued \$50,000.00 more bonds. This money will soon be available.

It's a tremendous task to keep up the roads of the County even if we were amply supplied with the money ready, not being overburdened with ready cash is more difficult. As we go about over the County we often hear the remark that there is no "Free Labor" on the roads, now "Free Labor" has not been abolished but "Forced Labor" has. No man is now forced by the iron hand of the law to do service on the roads, but every man in the County is hereby invited to do free labor on the road by his door. When you see a dangerous hole in a bridge near your home or a large rock in the road won't you remedy that condition? It will only cost you a few moments of your time while possibly it would cost the County dollars to do the same work; for often we would have to go miles to get to the point of needed repairs. My primary object in writing this article is to ask the whole-hearted co-operation of the entire citizenship of the County in this work. We want to see every citizen from Wilkes to Tennessee and from Ashe to Avery interested in ROADS. What can we do without your cooperation? It's not so much the dollars and cents you get out of this work, but the condition the roads are kept in. Fellow citizens if it appears to you that we are not paying enough per day for work remember our motto is "The most good roads for our dollar".

Friends, when we build new fences along any public road remember to leave at least 25 feet between the fences otherwise they will soon have to be torn down. There is much old fencing in the County that will shortly be torn down moved back to give more room. Many of the roads are so narrow that they should be called trails instead of roads. We appeal to the citizenship of the County to remedy this condition.

Yours to serve Watauga County to the best of my ability.
N. M. GREEE,
County Road Supervisor.

CONFEDERATE REUNION IN SEPTEMBER

Mr. E. J. Norris, Commander of Camp Nimrod Triplett 1273, announces that the annual reunion of the Confederate Veterans will take place in Boone at one of the Appalachian Training School buildings on September 6-7.

A complete program for the two days will follow.

TRAINING SCHOOL NEWS

Revs. F. M. Huggins and G. C. Brinkman, of the Baptist and Methodist Churches, conducted devotional services at the Appalachian Training School the past week.

Miss Lee, of the State Inmates Department, was at the Training School on the 20th and made a most suggestive talk to the student-teachers, urging them to help prevent the great loss by fire and accident.

Mr. George J. Harrington and Miss Berlie Ellis, two of the Training School students, married a few days ago. Also on Saturday Mr. Henry Greene, Secretary of the Watauga Riding and Loan Association, and Mrs. Floy Mast, both of Boone, were married. Happiness to them.

The Methodist people of Boone are rejoicing over the prospect of getting into their new Church on next Sunday the 29th. In fact all the people of Boone of all denominations are rejoicing with the Methodist that they are about to get into their Church after the long hard struggle in building it. The people here feel that the LORD has been the great source of help in this great task, otherwise it could not have been accomplished. The Methodist Church of the Western North Carolina Conference with individual friends in various parts of the State have helped the people here most liberally, realizing the importance of the work. Each and every one of those who help wish to express the deepest gratitude, also to the good Baptist friends and other noble hearted people of Boone the sincerest thanks be extended to all former pastors and friends for their liberal help. Will you direct our Methodist people here to say, "The Lord bless each one of you". A hearty welcome is hereby extended to all former pastors and friends for their liberal help. Will you direct our Methodist people here to say, "The Lord bless each one of you".

J. M. DOWNUM.

CELEBRATION OF GOLDEN WEDDING

On July 17th Mr. and Mrs. John Norris, of Boone, celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary. A large number of relatives and friends assembled in honor of the occasion, the children of this worthy old couple bringing well-filled baskets and a number of handsome presents to brighten this day for their parents. Mr. Norris is the son of David Norris whose son, William Norris, came with his wife from Virginia as one of the first settlers of Watauga County. Mrs. Norris was Miss Miriam Louetta Crowell, daughter of John and Elizabeth Crowell, of Union County, and granddaughter of Michael and Jane Crowell who were among the first settlers of Halifax, and were descendants of Oliver Cromwell. Mr. and Mrs. Norris reared ten children, two of whom have died recently. Those of their children present at the Anniversary were Mrs. Pylon, of Charlotte, Mrs. Norris' only living sister; Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Norris, of Sands; Mrs. McCoy Moretz and Mr. J. F. Norris, of Charlotte; Dr. and Mrs. R. K. Bingham, Boone; Mr. and Mrs. K. A. Link, of Lenoir; Mr. and Mrs. Cooke, of Boone, and a number of friends. A most sumptuous dinner was served which all present greatly enjoyed. Besides the eight living children Mr. and Mrs. Norris have 32 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren.

J. M. DOWNUM.

A NOBLE BENEFACTION

Mr. Lawrence S. Holt, the Burlington philanthropist, has added \$100,000 to the \$400,000 sum set aside a few years ago and made the deed of trust conveying it irrevocable and self-perpetuating. The income is divided among the Protestant churches of Burlington, the Thompson orphanage, the Valle Crucis School, St. Mary's School, Patterson School, Christ Church School at Arden. While the gift to the Episcopal church at Burlington is much larger than to the other churches, all of them are remembered and the generous giver voices the hope "that at some future time the whole of Christendom might enjoy church unity and the whole body of Christendom might dwell together in fraternal Christian love." It is a noble benefaction and planned with the thoroughness and far-sightedness for which Mr. Holt is noted.—News and Observer.

POST OFFICE TO CHANGE HANDS SATURDAY

On Saturday next, the Post Office in Boone will change hands, Mr. W. D. Farthing, taking the place of Post Master John E. Brown, who has for the past four years served this community in that responsible capacity in a most satisfactory manner. Mr. Brown, possibly, has had his faults, but speaking personally we can truthfully say that his administration has been a decided success so far as The Democrat force is concerned. Our business relations have been most pleasant, and, regardless of the ceaseless grind, John Brown invariably greets us with a smile, and was never too busy to give us an attentive ear. His helpers have also given entire satisfaction.

Mr. Farthing, the in-going Post Master has had considerable experience in Post Office work, as well as being assistant cashier in the Watauga County Bank for several years. There is no better qualified man, possibly in the county than he for this particular work, and we bespeak for him an administration most satisfactory to the Government and to his constituents at large. As Mr. Brown steps down and out, The Democrat gladly welcomes Mr. Farthing as the custodian of its mail. Pleasant, agreeable, accommodating always, such is Dudley Farthing. He is gladly welcomed. Mr. Farthing has not said so much to us, but we are told that Mr. B. H. Watson will be named as his assistant.

KILLS WIFE AND TWO BABIES, SLASHES SELF

Columbia, Tenn., July 22.—Mrs. Ophir Dugger, aged 36, her two children, a boy of four and a girl of two, are dead and Ophir Dugger, the husband and father, is dying here tonight as the result of a sudden fit of mania which he had for several days.

Dugger, according to the sheriff, who made a coroner's inquest on the wife and her children and then turned the matter over himself, had been in a state of mania from which he is dying.

The tragedy took place at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William J. Jacobs, at Carter's Creek. Mrs. Jacobs was a sister to the slain woman.

According to Jacobs Dugger, who came to this section recently with his family, from Plainsville, Texas, had been in Nashville for a week searching for work. He returned from that city only a few days ago and stated that he had been unable to secure a job, working only one day of the week in Nashville. Jacobs stated that Dugger had brooded over his inability to secure employment and that this is believed to have affected his mind and resulted in today's tragedy.

After cutting the throats of his wife and two children, Dugger used the same razor to inflict three ugly wounds upon himself, slashing his throat, cutting his abdomen across and also slashing his left arm. He was removed to the hospital here, where tonight attending physicians stated that he was not expected to survive the night.

JOHN EARLY, LEPER, SAYS GOOD BYE TO HIS EASTERN BRANCH HUT

John Early, the leper, has again said goodbye to the little hut on the banks of the Eastern branch, where he made his home during his various confinements in Washington, and left for the federal leprosarium at Carville, La. Accompanying him are a public health service physician and an attendant.

Early made a strong protest against his transfer when notified to prepare for the trip to Louisiana, but later agreed to go voluntarily. A policeman had been detailed to assist the public health service man in taking him from the quarantine to the union station, but his services were unnecessary.

The government hopes to keep Early in the federal leprosarium without opportunity to again escape and come to Washington. Early showed up in Washington about a week ago, walked into the district building and asked for Health Officer William C. Fowler. He told Dr. Fowler that he recently spent several days at Asheville and had visited Trevor, his former home.

POST OFFICE TO CHANGE HANDS SATURDAY

The teachers and the administration of the public school are very anxious to see what is being done. They think that as parents, you owe it to your children to manifest a keen interest in the educational efforts in their behalf. There is a strong tendency at present to shift the entire responsibility of child training on the school. This is unfortunate. There should be the kindest type of cooperation between the home and the school. To encourage this cooperation and a parental interest in school life, the teachers are setting aside one day next week as "parents' day." The children will notify you of the exact date in due time. The work on that day will not be out of the ordinary but will be typical of what is done every day. This, they feel, is what you should see. Please make an effort to be present some time during the school day.

CHURCH OPENING

Next Sunday marks the date of the first services in the new Methodist church in Boone. The large auditorium, with a comfortable seating capacity of 750. The Sunday School rooms on the first floor and the teachers' study, will be completed this week and the long looked for opening will occur at 11 a. m. At a church meeting held Monday evening a committee composed of Dr. M. G. Anders and Messrs. John F. Hearn and J. S. Starnes was appointed to write for publication a history of the Methodist church in Boone from its organization to the present, which will appear in these columns promptly next week. We have learned that dinner will be served on the grounds, Sunday. The public is cordially invited to be present at this service. The church extends its cordial invitation to the local members of the church who have spent so much of their lives and time in meeting this magnificent issue at warrent, and to the pastor who has asked for them, so devoutly thanking their friends.

Based on the proceeds of the study which will be made.

THE ALAMANCE FARMERS

A delegation of about 75 representative farmers from Alamance county, headed by their county agent, Mr. Scott, spent Thursday and Friday nights in Boone. Friday morning our agent, Mr. John Steel, headed the long procession of automobiles carrying our appreciated visitors to points of interest in the county, they observing our roads, farming, herds of cattle, cheese-making and giving them a real feast of the gorgeous mountain scenery in the far-famed Blowing Rock section, all of which was much enjoyed by our friends from Alamance. They returned to Boone in the afternoon and at 7:30 in the evening a sumptuous repast was spread for them on the lawn at the Court House, under the auspices of the Boone Commercial Club. Short addresses, bidding them welcome, were made by Mayor Hahn, Dist. Attorney F. A. Linney and County Agent, John B. Steel, which were responded to by Agent Scott, of Alamance. He said their long trip through several Virginia Counties, was much enjoyed, but when they arrived at the State line, coming out of Tenn, a shout arose from every member of the party as they got the first whiff of North Carolina air in this splendid and progressive county of Watauga. They seemed to enjoy their visit to Watauga very much, and our people enjoyed just as much having them with us.

The contest singing at Wilkesboro was well attended last Saturday. There were three counties represented: Wilkes, Alleghany, and Watauga.

The Little River choir of Alexander county, led by Prof. Thomas Webster won first prize of \$105.00 and the Popular Grove choir, of Watauga County, led by Prof. Z. T. Greene won second prize of \$50.00.

All that were present enjoyed the good singing, while the choirs appreciated the generosity of the J. L. Garwood Piano and Phonograph Co., for the valuable prizes.

Miss Mary, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Spencer of Lenoir, is visiting her mother, Mrs. Perkins, near town.

Mrs. Anderson of Johnson City, formerly Miss Mabel Joppins of this place is a visitor in Boone for a few days.