

The Watauga Democrat.

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News Items as Reported From Rural Watauga

Interesting News Items as Reported Each Week by Our Correspondents in the Several Sections of the County

BLOWING ROCK

Mrs. Maggie Skipper with her sister Mrs. Mamie Cutter of Macon, Ga. arrived here last Friday. They are now busy furnishing remodeling and painting their pretty bungalow on Boone Street. Mrs. Skipper and daughter Mrs. Francis Lowe with Mrs. Mamie Cutter visited Blowing Rock last summer and was so charmed with the mountains here and our town that they have invested in valuable real estate and Mrs. Skipper will make her home here where she will entertain a number of her friends in her lovely bungalow, Mountain Home.

Mr. Letcher Benfield has moved in to the cottage known as the Pines. He says this is his first experience in housekeeping which he is enjoying greatly.

Rev. Mr. Woosley with his singer Mr. Shoemaker closed a very interesting revival last Sunday night at the Methodist church here. Rev. Woosley preached to a packed house each service and made many friends here where he is highly esteemed for his sterling worth. Mr. Shoemaker who sang with Rev. Woosley is a student of charming personality. He leaves many admiring friends in Blowing Rock.

Last week's sick list are still unimproved.

We are informed that Mr. Gray Boynton an expert landscape gardener will arrive here next week where he will do his share in beautifying Blowing Rock.

Watauga is a land of beauty that charms the stranger and holds the wanderer.

Blowing Rock is the city on the mountain top that lets her light shine and it has reached every country in the land and the people flock to beautiful Blowing Rock to enjoy its health giving breezes. Blowing Rock the beautiful, may you ever prosper and open wide your doors to the ever welcome tourist. They are our friends and here is welcome for them each and every one that comes to our lovely mountain land.

Mrs. A. M. Critcher has just received a letter from her daughter Mrs. Helen Cooper of Pasadena, Cal. saying that with her husband they will drive through the country to Blowing Rock, starting in May. They expect to drive across the continent in three weeks. Here is wishing success to them on their long journey.

FOSCOE

Mr. Emory Greer was in Foscoe this week.

Mrs. W. H. Byrd and Mrs. Carrie Walters were pleasant visitors at the home of Mrs. Candis Woodies at Shulls Mills Saturday.

Mr. Henry Brinkley came home from Boone Friday feeling very bad. We hope he will soon be out again.

Mr. W. H. Byrd made a business trip to Avery this week.

As this is leap year the Foscoe girls are planning a fox chase up the river. They are sure they can catch two or three foxes in the drive.

Mr. W. H. Byrd believes in building, or moving buildings. He moved a large store house 400 yards in a day and a half for Mr. J. F. Coffey and placed it down ready for use.

Mrs. Wesley Coffey is improving some, but very slow.

Mrs. H. S. Wagner is much improved at this writing.

There will be an entertainment given at Shulls Mills Presbyterian graded school on the night of the 15th of April.

Foscoe is having plenty of old time Indian services. The young people seem to enjoy it and the older folks don't mind.

Mrs. Carrie Walters is planning on going to Blowing Rock and Lenoir soon to visit her daughter and granddaughter.

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C. C. H. S. EXERCISES TO BE NEXT WEEK

Commencement Program at Cove Creek High School Will be of Unusual Interest

The second annual commencement of the Cove Creek High School will be held on Friday Saturday and Sunday April 18-20. On Friday afternoon at 1:30 the boys and girls of the high school will engage in a declamation and recitation contest, the winners to receive a gold medal. Also the students in the music department will give a recital at this program.

On Friday evening at 7:30 the students of the grammar grades will present an operetta, "The Princess of Poppoland." This promises to be one of the most interesting features of the entire commencement.

Saturday morning at 10:30 the class day exercises by the senior class will be given. Dinner will be served on the ground. At 1:00 o'clock the literary address to the graduates will be delivered by Dr. J. D. Rankin of the A. T. S.

Following the address, diplomas, perfect attendance certificates, medals and honor roll certificates will be awarded.

Saturday evening at 8:00 o'clock the senior class will present a play "Borrowed Money." This is a play in four acts by Oliver P. Parker and has been a great success where it has been given. An admission fee of 15c for children will be charged and for adults, the proceeds to be used by the school.

Sunday morning at 11 o'clock the commencement sermon will be preached in the school auditorium by Rev. A. C. Sherwood of Erwin, Tenn. Mr. Sherwood has many relatives and friends in Watauga who will enjoy hearing him.

We hope to have ball games on Friday and Saturday afternoons between the school team and the Appalachian Training School. We hope to have a large attendance and extend to everybody a cordial invitation.—Reported.

ITEMS FROM THE APPALACHIAN SCHOOL

The Appalachian Training School base ball team is having team practice when the weather will permit. They are hoping to be very efficient soon.

Miss Gladys Swift of the Training School, was operated on at the hospital for appendicitis on April 4th and is reported as getting on well, and it is hoped by her friends that this splendid young lady may very soon be able to return to her work. She is in the senior class.

Prof. W. J. Rowe of the public school, was pretty badly shaken up in the auto accident of a few days ago, but his many friends are glad to know that he is able to be out again.

The past week gave this section several snows, the one on Friday about as pretty as ever fell, though it was followed by a rain, and soon melted away.

The pastor of the Methodist church Rev. M. B. Woosley, being at Blowing conducting a meeting, services at that church were conducted morning and evening by Professors J. D. Rankin and J. M. Downum of the Training School.

SIMMONS WOULD FINISH OUT 30 YEARS IN SENATE

Washington, April 8th.—Senator Frazier M. Simmons today filed formal notice of his candidacy for reelection to the United States senate with the state board of elections of North Carolina and sent to the board the entrance fee required by the statute.

If renominated and re-elected the coming term will be Senator Simmons' fifth term in the United States Senate and will complete thirty years for him in that body.

Senator Simmons is now the senior Democratic member of the United States senate in length of service. There are only two republican senators, Lodge and Warren, who have served longer than Senator Simmons. He was first elected to congress as member of the house of representatives in 1886, 38 years ago.

Owing to the inclement weather, and an attack of cold President B. E. Dougherty has not been at the Training School for several days. J. M. DOWNUM.

Do you take your county paper?

COUNTY AGENT WILL BE RETAINED

Hundreds of the more progressive citizens of the county met in Boone on last Monday pursuant to the call made last week, to protest against the proposed removal of our county farm agent, Mr. John B. Steele who has labored so acceptably in the interest of this county for the past two years. The sentiment was unusually strong against his removal, as a result of which he was reinstated, his new term to expire July 25, 1925.

The people on the whole are grateful to the commissioners for their action in the matter and it is to be expected that after the next year's work there will be no issue along this line.

LINES BEING RUN—WOULD OPEN ADDITIONAL STREETS

Our board of aldermen has been actively engaged for some days in surveying about the town locating lines and laying out preparatory to opening up additional streets, one to be known as South Street, which is a continuation of the one through the Rivers property which intersects with the Blowing Rock road just south of E. S. Coffey's home. Another they have in view passes through the J. D. Council shop lot and tops Queen Street at the corner of the Jones property, and through the Jones lots, going east to the Daniel Boone Park, and west to Green Heights. This sounds good and it will open up some of the prettiest properties in the entire town.

"UNCLE JERRY" LENOIR, AGED COLORED MAN, DEAD

Uncle Jerry Lenoir, perhaps the most widely known and highly respected colored citizen in Watauga, died at his home in Boone Monday night. He was a soldier in the Civil War and so far as we know, has been a resident of Watauga ever since. He was near 80 years of age. A lady said in our presence some years ago: "If I was called on to select one of the best men I know, I would not pass Jerry Lenoir," and we believe every word she said. He was a consistent member of the Methodist Church and lived his religion every day in the year. He was honest to a cent, trustworthy in every sense of the word, and will be sorely missed by the people of his race who reside in Watauga. He was laid to rest yesterday afternoon in the town cemetery, the Rev. Peeler conducting the funeral services.

FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF PRESENT BAPTIST PASTORATE

The fourth anniversary of the present pastorate will be featured Sunday 11 a. m.

1. Financial Growth of the Church—G. P. Hagaman.
2. Numerical Growth—W. R. Gragg.
3. Spiritual Growth—Mrs. G. P. Hagaman.
4. Things that Strengthen the Relation of pastor and Church—I. G. Greer.
5. Moral Support of the Pastor—D. D. Dougherty.
6. Are we making the Most of Our Opportunities—D. J. Cottrell.
7. What the pastor and his wife have meant to us—E. S. Coffey.
8. What the Church has meant to us—F. M. Huggins.

It is planned to intersperse the above program with songs from the old Christian Harmony—the songs of our fathers and grandfathers. The exercises will displace the regular preaching services of the morning hour. There will be a program by the young people at night.

PARENT-TEACHERS ASSN. WILL ELECT NEW OFFICERS

The Parent Teachers Association will meet at the Public School building Friday April 11th at 2:30 p. m. for the annual election of officers. This important meeting has been delayed on account of bad weather, and it is hoped that every member will be present on time at this date, so the plans for the work of the association for the coming year may be perfected at once. Our public school needs the association. Let us make ready to meet our responsibility. The nominating committee is composed of Mrs. D. D. Dougherty, Miss Annie Stanbury, Mrs. J. D. Council, Mrs. Smith Hagaman, Pres. Mrs. Roy Johnson, Secy.

Thongs Celebrate 100th Birthday of Local Man

"Thou Shalt Rise up Before the Hoary Head, and Honour the Face of the Old Man." Leviticus 19:32

Special to the Democrat.

On last Thursday April 3 a great throng of people estimated at between 700 and 1000 left their farms, stores, mills, shops, banks and homes and met at the home of Thomas M. Greer on the Boone Trail Highway near Rutherford, N. C. to celebrate the one hundredth birthday of his father Riley Greer. It was a most beautiful and lovely day; not a cloud floating in the sky, and the sun seemed to point down with fingers of warmth, light and love, amid the songs of birds, to honor the grand old man.

The services were opened by Rev. L. C. Wilson by reading the first chapter of Psalms, following with a prayer. A number of noted ministers and speakers were present who added much to the occasion by delivering very pleasing and attractive addresses. First speaker was Rev. Conley Greer, a relative of the aged man who made a very appropriate talk, closing with the pathetic little poem: "Rock me to sleep mother, rock me to sleep."

The minister was followed by Professor I. G. Greer of Boone who paid a fitting tribute to the pioneers who had blazed the way leading to our present civilization. Prof. Greer said in part: "The man whose birthday we have met to celebrate has lived during the lifetime of every president of the United States except Washington."

He was born on April 3, 1824, in what was then the wilderness of western North Carolina; John Adams the second president, Thomas Jefferson, Father of the Declaration of Independence and third president, Jas. Madison, father of the Constitution, and fourth president, were still living. He was born the year that John Quincy Adams was elected president.

Here is a man who with one hand can reach back into the cradle of our national life and with the other he can feel the throbbing pulse of our ourishing civilization of 1924.

When he was born there were only twenty three states in the Union, two of these were west of the Mississippi. During his life time 25 states have been born and added to the Union. Not a foot of railroad had been built when this man came into the world. Our mighty industrial system has been built up during his life time. I could enumerate at length the wonderful changes that have taken place during the life of this man. But amid all these rapid developments, there is one thing that has never changed, it is the value of a citizen in a community who has lived the clean, courageous life that our own Uncle Iley Greer has lived.

(At this point the speaker emphasized the importance of a clean life) In the midst of our marvelous progress let us not forget that we owe to the pioneers of this country, who made it possible for us to enjoy the blessings of our present civilization. Over every modern luxury there is lurking the shadow of ancient hardship wrought out by these men of valor. As we speed along our splendid highways, let us remember that this would not have been possible had it not been for the ox cart that first blazed the pathway. Let us not forget that where our great cities and factories now stand, there once stood the mighty forests that had to be felled by the woodman's axe. All these blessings we enjoy because such men as our distinguished friend today had the courage to face and complete the task that lay before them."

Prof. Greer was followed by Rev. G. W. Sebastian and Uriah Farthing who delivered very touching addresses on the importance of right living and true citizenship. The vocal music was in charge of the Rutherford and Stony Fork singing choirs, and was highly enjoyed by all. A sumptuous dinner of the most palatable food was then spread before the multitudes, There was no reason for anyone going away hungry, for like the miraculous feeding of the

five thousand baskets of fragments were taken up after the needs of all had been supplied.

It will be remembered that since the death of Uncle Riley's wife some twenty five years ago, he has made his home with his son Thomas and his wife, who have treated the aged father with the utmost tenderness and kindness. No father in all this mountain section has been treated with a greater degree of respect at the hands of his child than that which Uncle Riley has enjoyed. Long life and blessings are promised this son, for it was thunders from Sinai's flaming crest by God Himself, "Honor thy father and mother."

Let us believe the resisting of parental authority, and irreverence for father and mother by the child, will call down the righteous indignation of God upon it.

The aged occupied a prominent place in the social and political system of the Jews. In private life they were looked upon as the depositories of knowledge, Job. 16:16; the young were ordered to rise up in their presence, Lev. 19:32; they allowed them to give their opinion first, Job 32:4; they were taught to regard gray hairs as a "crown of glory" Prov. 16:31; 20:29.

Uncle Riley was born and has lived for one hundred years in the Land of the Sky where the landscape presents a scene of rare beauty; where the hills and valleys intermingle in every conceivable manner; where the summer foliage is rich in changing tints of green and brown; where in autumn it becomes a flower garden of most varied and beautiful colors; where in winter the pure snow flakes and ice on the trees, glitter in the sunlight, resembling a palace of pure crystals. The incessant flow of New River, a bright and sparkling stream winding among the hills on its way to the gulf, symbolizing the ever widening flow of the rapid and rushing river of time into boundless and endless eternity.

Amid the splendor and beauty of his surroundings Uncle Riley learned to comprehend the harmony of colors and the beauty of proportions. Instead of lying around public places feeling of the public pulse and listening at the wind of opinion, Uncle Riley chose the sacred precincts of home, where he could radiate peace and sunshine among those he loved. Of such a man the Psalmist speaks, "He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth his fruit in his own season, his leaf also shall not wither, and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper." Uncle Riley believed that much more could be accomplished with all the appetites under control, all forces directed to right thought and action, all desires harmonized and focused on worthy objects. From this belief, burning deep in his soul, he has taught us all how to live.

He has never been known to worry, find fault, scold or give way to hatred, stubbornness, and passion, but has cultivated a sunny, cheerful, self-respecting disposition. Now he approaches the sunset of life with a clear conscience and a warm heart.

Uncle Riley has followed in the path of the Master, conscious of his oneness with the Infinite. On his long journey God has helped him to climb the heights, blessed him with length of days, and crowned him with respect and honor as he reaches the summit. Such a Christian man should not look upon death as a tragedy, but rather the tender lips of love sent to kiss down the eyelids still into that peaceful sleep that intervenes between the twilight of time and the dawn of eternity.

In the morning of the resurrection may the Master find us all regenerate grace-filled, and faith-crowned, needing only the touch of His Infinite love to clothe us with Immortality.

Z. T. WATSON
Brookside, N. C.