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FIVE CENTS A COPY

News of a Week At Blowing Rock

New School Building Should Be Community Center, Says Expert; To Cost About \$35,000

By RUPERT GILLET
Blowing Rock, Jan. 26.—John J. Blair, state superintendent of school buildings, grounds and construction, who was here last week to inspect the five-acre site for Blowing Rock's proposed \$35,000 consolidated school building, envisioned for Blowing Rock a building of beauty, which can serve as school, community center and public library combined.

"Blowing Rock," Mr. Blair said, "has a wonderful opportunity to build here a structure that will be a credit to this part of the state."

Although he did not bring any model plans, Mr. Blair said the building he had in mind would have about twelve rooms for the public library and other branches for a community center.

Immediately after Mr. Blair's departure, Q. E. Herman, architect of Hickory, was here looking at the site in preparation, presumably, to prepare a bid on the building.

According to Smith Hagaman, county superintendent of education, however, bids will not be called for until the legal tangle in the way of financing the project can be removed. This must be done by the legislature.

Mr. Hagaman conferred last week with G. C. Robbins and S. J. Stutz of the Blowing Rock board relative to the materials for the proposed building. No decision was reached, but three materials were discussed principally—brick, tile and stone.

No preference was expressed as to material, but several citizens, who were asked their opinion, preferred stone as being more harmonious with the mountain landscape. The principal objection to stone, it was said, is the expense.

Annexation Bill Introduced
Word reached here Saturday that Thomas H. Coffey, Watauga county representative in the general assembly, has introduced in the house his bill for the annexation to the corporate limits of Blowing Rock of Mayview Park and Green Park.

Because of the large number of public improvements that have been completed since the last summer session, and because these improvements can be extended to these two communities if they are annexed, the bill is expected to pass easily.

The bill will add nearly a square mile to Blowing Rock's area, a large proportion to its summer population, and \$800,000 to its tax valuations.

Fire Siren Installed
The siren of the Blowing Rock fire alarm system was placed on the tower Friday and work is almost completed on wiring and installing the alarm boxes. The Blowing Rock Power and Light Company installed the system without cost to the town, and will donate the power to operate it. The siren is of the latest design, and, it is said, can be heard ten miles away.

The new fire station is rapidly nearing completion. The outside has been finished, and carpenters this week were rushing the interior work. Meanwhile the fire truck is being kept in the Blowing Rock garage.

Dr. B. B. Dougherty, president of the Appalachian Normal school at Boone, was here for a few hours last Monday, and then he and Mayor George Sudderth departed for Raleigh. Mr. Dougherty did not announce his mission, but it was presumed that he went to confer with the budget commission, which met the heads of state institutions last week. While here, Prof. Dougherty said the Normal will soon erect a new dormitory for girls and that it will be paid for out of the \$5,500,000 bond issue now pending before the legislature for buildings for state institutions.

In line with other improvements which Blowing Rock is making for what is expected to be its greatest summer season, the Blowing Rock Light and Power company will erect this spring a steam generating plant as an auxiliary to its water power plant on the Watauga River below Shulls Mills. The steam plant will have a capacity of 200 horsepower. The water power plant generates 400 horsepower. It is the intention, said S. J. Stutz, manager of the company, to give the best service possible to the summer residents.

LOCAL POST AMERICAN LEGION TO MEET FEB. 4TH

At Which Time Plans for Enlarged Program of Activities Will Be Discussed

AMERICAN LEGION MEETING
The following letter, dated January 25, 1927, and addressed to members of Watauga Post No. 130, American Legion, will be of interest to all members of that organization:

Dear Comrade:
The American Legion, Watauga Post No. 130, will meet in Boone, N. C., February the 4th, 1927, at 7:30 p. m. in the old Watauga County Bank building.

This being the time for the regular meeting, we are very anxious to have present every man in Watauga county who served in the World War, whether in the United States or overseas.

A cordial invitation is also being extended to members of the Auxiliary; so please come and bring with you your mother, wife or sister. This invitation is for all, whether or not you are a member of the Legion or Auxiliary.

This post owns eight and one-fourth acres of land, known as the American Legion Park, which belongs to every American Legion man in Watauga county, and not to any individual, and what we most desire is to get every eligible man in the county to become a member of Watauga Post for the year 1927 and plan what is best to do with this park.

Also if this post puts on a celebration on July 4th, it will be necessary to have a strong membership who will co-operate in every way to make this celebration a success.

The great organization of the American Legion is doing more today than ever before for the men who served in the army, navy and marine corps during the period of the World War, and now since it is knocking at the door of every ex-service man, let us strive for more members and put our shoulders to the wheel. Think of what Congress may do between now and March 4th for our adjusted compensation certificates, and also we hope to know about the North Carolina veterans' loan fund which will benefit every ex-service man in the county.

The committees are planning on having a good meeting, consisting of music, eats, etc., and having the Auxiliary present. Our hall has two rooms and if it meets with the approval of Auxiliary members, they may hold their business meeting at the same time the post is holding its meeting, after which they will combine for the social meeting.

Respectfully,
L. S. ISAACS, Commander.
C. S. STEVENSON, Adjutant.

VALLE CRUCIS NEWS

Valle Crucis, Jan. 26.—Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Taylor are enjoying their new home on highway 89, into which they have recently moved.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Lowrance and family have moved back to Elizabethton.

Mr. and Mrs. Mack Shown and two sons, of Mountain City, were visitors in the valley on Sunday at the home of T. C. Baird.

Mr. and Mrs. John Dyer and her daughter Mrs. Knave of Mountain City visited Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Tester for the week end.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Mast spent Sunday in the valley.

Dr. Edgar Moore of Mt. Holly has been visiting his aunt, Mrs. Joe K. Mast.

Miss Susie Taylor is spending a few days in Boone with Mrs. H. B. Perry.

T. C. Baird had his tonsils removed at the Watauga Hospital last Wednesday.

It is hoped that his general health will be improved.

B. O. Greer of Idaho and J. R. of Oklahoma, visited their nieces Mesdames B. W. and R. A. Farthing after attending their father's funeral last week.

George Baird has moved to the old Church place since Grady Mast and family left there for Elizabethton.

Mr. Joel Eggers returned to his home from the Watauga Hospital last Saturday.

P. G. Spainhour returned from Raleigh Saturday after having spent a week visiting his father in the Legislature and attending the Grand Lodge.

Miss Maude Woodward has returned to the Valle Crucis School after a prolonged visit to her home in S. Carolina, owing to the illness and death of her brother.

Agree On Direct Loans To Veterans

President and Congress Agree On Plan; Early Congressional Action Expected

Direct loans to former service men on their bonus certificates by the veterans' bureau was agreed upon last Wednesday at a White House conference and early congressional consideration of the proposal was promised.

Director Hines of the bureau said after a conference with President Coolidge that there was no obligation on the part of the government to make the loans and he would ask congress to authorize it.

Chairman Green, of the house ways and means committee, announced that he would ask the committee to consider at an early date an authorization for the bureau to make the loans.

General Hines would have the veterans' bureau act as a supplementary service to the banks, thus permitting veterans to obtain loans either from the banks or the government at the same interest rate—6 per cent. Money for the insurance certificates already has been appropriated up to their present value and this could be used, he said, to make the loans.

WILSON LEAVES CHEESE WORK IN NORTH CAROLINA

Mr. H. L. Wilson, who has been connected with the cheese manufacturing work in Watauga and adjacent counties for several years, will move to Washington during the early part of February to take up work with the bureau of dairying, U. S. department of agriculture. During Mr. Wilson's stay at Boone he has made many friends who regret that he is to leave this field. He is better known as "Cheese" Wilson, which name implies that he has not only made friends, but has been an efficient promoter of the cheese industry hereabouts.

The dairy industry in Watauga is making substantial growth. More milk is being received at the factories this winter than during former winters. The possibilities for the industry in this and adjacent counties are unlimited and it is predicted that in the course of time the mountain counties of North Carolina will be producing sufficient cheese to supply the demands of the state.

In the future the cheese factories will be assisted in their manufacturing problems, and the farmers in their production problems by F. R. Farham and W. L. Clevenger, who are now members of the dairy extension staff of State College, Raleigh. Although Mr. Wilson is leaving the work it will be pushed in the future as it has been in the past.

SPECIALISTS TO OPEN OFFICES IN BOONE

It will be of interest to the people of the county to know that Drs. Speas and Larkin, eye, ear, nose and throat specialists of Hickory, have established offices in Boone, where they will serve the people of the county one day each week in the future. Dr. Speas needs no introduction to the people of Watauga, having done work at his Hickory office for our people for the last ten years. People have gone to him from all parts of the county, and he has given excellent service.

Dr. Larkin, whom Dr. Speas has associated with himself, comes highly recommended. He is an ex-service man, having served as a medical officer in the navy for four years during the war period. Since that time he has served five years in the public health work of this state. He recently completed an extensive course of training in New York Post Graduate Medical College and Hospital service, also Cornell University Post Graduate School.

Drs. Speas and Larkin have taken offices over the Moretz Furniture store, where one of them will be found each Monday. They will be prepared to do all operative and non-operative work in their specialty, including fitting glasses and removing tonsils and adenoids in children and adults. Their office will be equipped with beds and a nurse will be in attendance. This arrangement fills a need that has long been felt in Boone, and should prove mutually beneficial to all parties concerned.

Would Extend Boone Trail On To Kentucky

Engineer Currier Urges Vital Interest of States in Opening Route Toward West

That North Carolina has a vital interest in the connection of Route 60 at Boone, N. C., with the highway leading west over the Boone Trail by way of Lexington and Middlesboro, Ky., is suggested in a letter received by Manager J. H. Rich, of the Boone Trail Association, from S. C. Currier, state highway engineer, in charge of work in the seventh highway district of North Carolina says the Twin-City Sentinel. Mr. Rich has just returned from Kentucky, where he spent some time, and where he finds all eyes turned toward a western North Carolina highway connection to the south, rather than the old route through Tennessee. Leading schools and colleges, civic clubs and chambers of commerce in the Kentucky cities along the route from the west, are urging united effort between the two states to acquire connection with Route 60 of the North Carolina system.

Writing of the matter, Engineer Currier says: "Most important to North Carolina and the western traffic beyond is the early improvement of the connecting link between Boone, N. C., and Middlesboro, Ky. When this is accomplished it will enable a vast number of tourists to cross the mountains into North Carolina on their way in all directions." He suggests a concerted move on the part of North Carolinians and Kentuckians to raise the barrier, less than fifteen miles being located in the Old North State. Twenty-eight miles of road construction is all that is needed to open the gateway between North Carolina and Kentucky for travel southeast from Detroit and other points in the west.

Mr. Currier, discussing the route declares it "most historic and the roadside holds an additional charm for travelers as he sees visible markings of the Boone pioneers who tracked their way over the Alleghenies 175 years ago."

Route 60 is known as the Boone Trail highway. The improvement of the stretch of highway referred to above will open the entire distance covered by Col. Richard Henderson's backwoodsmen, led by Daniel Boone in their march across the country as pioneer trail blazers.

DURABILITY AND LOW UP-KEEP OF CHEVROLET CARS

Driving a Chevrolet car daily in the rough, hilly districts of Missouri for a total repair cost of \$23.85 for 20,000 miles of driving over a period of six years is the record attained by Mrs. Olen Gentry, of Mill Grove, Mo.

The sturdy endurance of the Chevrolet never was attested better than through its popularity among those who live in the mountainous locations, according to Mrs. Gentry.

In August, 1920, Mrs. Gentry purchased a Chevrolet touring car and in December of 1925, the owner figured that it was about time to buy a new model. "Although my old car is still giving excellent service, I expect to turn it in soon on a new 1927 Chevrolet coupe," Mrs. Gentry said.

The old car which she is now driving was purchased only after an earlier model Chevrolet had given her steady service from 1916 to 1920. Rough, rocky roads feature the mountain country and only cars with powerful motors, combined with staunch construction, are able to withstand the terrific grind of daily use, the owner says.

WILL PROTECT BRITISH INTERESTS IN CHINA

London, Jan. 25.—The most formidable array of British fighting ships brought together outside of home waters since the great war is assembling at the China station to back up the policy of the British government in protecting life and property in China. The combined army and naval forces which will soon be on hand for armed service in China in the event of an emergency approximating 10,000 to 21,000.

Denver, Colo., Jan. 24.—Ruling his reelection in 1924 illegal, the Colorado supreme court today ordered Ben B. Lindsay ousted as judge of the Denver juvenile court, where he has served a quarter of a century.

FATHER OF REV. WOOSLEY PASSES AT GREENSBORO

Rev. A. Woosley Died Friday Following Brief Illness; Was Minister of M. E. Church for 44 Years

News of the death of Rev. John A. Woosley, of Greensboro, father of Rev. M. B. Woosley of Boone, was received here Friday, the venerable minister having died early Friday morning. He was in his 70th year and was pastor of Bethel and Grace churches in Greensboro. Death followed a brief illness with pneumonia. Rev. M. B. Woosley was at the bedside of his father when the end came. The minister's death was an unusual one, says the Greensboro News of Saturday. Noted throughout his career as a great lover of singing, he died while the words of hymns old in the Methodist church came from his lips. From 1 o'clock until the hour of his death yesterday morning he sang almost constantly those hymns that had been a stay and comfort to him during the active years of his life.

It was devotion to duty, probably, that caused the minister to be taken with his fatal illness. On January 13, a week and a day before he died, against the advice of physicians and the members of his family, he went to the missionary institute conducted at West Market Street Methodist Episcopal church, believing it would be of benefit to himself and his charge to hear the discussion. He contracted pneumonia as a result, close friends said yesterday. He had always expressed a desire to "die in the harness," these friends add, and that was the way he met death.

He was born on June 13, 1857, in Arcadia township of Lexington county. When 16 years old he was converted at old Mount Olive church, Davidson county, leading his father to the altar at the same time, both professing a faith they retained, and helped spread during the remainder of their lives.

He joined the North Carolina Conference of the Methodist Episcopal church at the session held at Statesville in the fall of 1883 and had entered on his 44th year of ministerial labors when stricken. During his long term of service he had served many congregations and had been instrumental in causing hundreds of persons to join the church. He was a tireless worker, and a very energetic one—a firm believer in the faith.

Six children, three boys and three girls, survive. They are: O. V. Woosley, of Lexington, superintendent of Sunday schools of the Western North Carolina conference; Mrs. A. M. Wagoner, of Walkertown, Forsyth county; Mrs. C. M. Webber, Danville, Va.; Prof. John B. Woosley, member of the faculty of the University of North Carolina; Rev. M. B. Woosley, pastor of the M. E. church at Boone, and Mrs. W. B. Galt, of High Point.

The funeral service was conducted at Mount Olive church Saturday afternoon at 3 o'clock. Interment was in the church cemetery.

SMALL SCHOOL RAPIDLY PASSING IN CAROLINA

The "little red schoolhouse" is rapidly disappearing from North Carolina.

"State School Facts," published by the department of public instruction announces that one-teacher schools for white pupils in North Carolina numbered 1,322. The state had 5,411 in 1901. One-teacher schools for colored pupils decreased from 2,418 to 1,188 between 1901 and 1925.

The cost of instruction in white schools of the rural elementary type was 12.9 cents per pupil enrolled in 1926 and 17.1 cents per pupil in average daily attendance. The cost ranged from 22.5 cents a day for each child enrolled in Alexander county to 8.7 cents daily in Haywood county.

The reason for the wide differences in the costs, State School Facts explained, was accounted for in that Alexander county had 14.8 pupils attending for each teacher employed, whereas Haywood county had 43.0 pupils per teacher.

DR. NORRIS ACQUITTED

Austin, Texas, Jan. 25.—Dr. J. Frank Norris, fundamental Baptist pastor of Fort Worth, tonight was acquitted of the murder of Dexter E. Chipps, lumberman, whom the minister killed in his church office last July 17.

Not the Only One By a Long Shot

Senator McNeil One of Many Democrats Elected From This District in Past Quarter Century

The following paragraph appeared in a recent issue of the Raleigh News and Observer:

"Senator P. T. McNeill, who hails from the same county that produced Tam Bowie, is the first Democrat to represent his district in the senate in several years. The Ashes soon got right down to business a few days after the senate convened and offered the first Australian ballot bill of the present session."

The "Old Reliable" should refresh its memory a bit. Senator McNeill is one of nine Democrats who have represented the district in the upper branch of the general assembly in the past twenty-six years. Dr. Robinson having been the last Republican to represent the district, he being elected in 1920.

Following is a list of senators and their political affiliation who have served in the senate from this district since 1900:

- 1900—L. H. Michael, Republican.
- 1902—H. M. Wellborn, Republican.
- 1904—S. A. Taylor, Republican.
- 1906—E. F. Lovill, Democrat.
- 1908—R. L. Doughton, Democrat.
- 1910—J. M. Wagner, Republican.
- 1912—E. S. Coffey, Democrat.
- 1914—R. L. Ballou, Democrat.
- 1916—Eugene Transon, Democrat.
- 1918—E. F. Lovill, Democrat.
- 1920—Dr. Robertson, Republican.
- 1922—Aler Jones, Democrat.
- 1924—John E. Brown, Democrat.
- 1926—P. T. McNeill, Democrat.

KENNIE WAGNER SPENDS TIME ANSWERING LETTERS

Kingsport (Tenn.) Times.
A well made, blue suit of clothing, bearing the mark, "Wagner," was cleaned by a local dry cleaning establishment a few days ago.

It belonged to Kennie Wagner, notorious desperado and killer, who is now serving life sentence. Was his deed on a prison farm near Jackson, Miss. The suit was the same which Kinzie wore during his famous trial in Leakesville and Meridian, Miss. He had sent it to his brother, Kelsey Wagner, who lives here.

By saving the nifty blue suit cleaned it is presumed that the great Wagner intends sprucing up a bit, giving more truth to the statement that he has become a much sought after man by feminine admirers throughout the county.

Recent reports from Jackson tie to the effect that Wagner spends practically all his spare time unwavering love notes which he receives daily from various women admirers. Attracted by his daring and his handsome features, what flapper could resist the temptation to be honored by a letter from so well known a character.

Also from Jackson comes word that the Tennessee gunman is proving a popular prisoner and a model one. The thought of a life time sentence doesn't seem to worry him in the least.

(Editor's Note—Wagner was defended by a former Watauga boy, Attorney Frank Hayes, of Kingsport, Tenn., and it is said that through strong legal defense, Kennie was saved from the gallows.)

DORMITORY AT PLUMTREE SCHOOL DESTROYED BY FIRE

Plumtree, Jan. 22.—With practically all their clothing and personal effects destroyed in the burning of the three-story dormitory building of the Plumtree School for Boys, sixty boys, students of the school are tonight sleeping on the floor of the dining hall and crowding into the class rooms.

Fire starting from a spark from the furnace in the dormitory and igniting the shingle roof, completely destroyed the building at 2 o'clock this afternoon. The building was a frame structure with 64 rooms, and was built in 1912; one of the two buildings in which the school has been conducted.

Total loss is estimated at \$25,000 with only about \$7,000 insurance.

Washington, Jan. 24.—The senate today rejected the nomination of Cyrus E. Woods, of Pennsylvania, to be a member of the interstate commerce commission, after a bitter three days' fight carried on behind closed doors.