

WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

A Non-Partisan Newspaper, Devoted to the Best Interests of Northwest North Carolina.

VOL. XXXVIII, NO. 5

BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 1927

FIVE CENTS A COPY

NEWS ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM LEES-McRAE INSTITUTE

Banner Elk, Feb. 16.—The basketball season at Lees-McRae Institute opened on February 5 with a game between two teams of the school, the Mabel Taylor, L. F.; Agnes Snyder, J. C.; Dorothy Brothers, N. S. C.; Dolly Green, R. G.; Madge Green, L. G. Gold—Teresa Loven, R. F.; Hazel Smith, L. F.; Hattie Snyder, J. C.; Nell Wilson, N. S. C.; Kathleen Peake, R. G.; Louise VonCannon, L. G.

On February 12 the faculty of Lees-McRae and Grace Hospital staff played the victors of February 5. The score of this game was 20 to 14 in favor of the Green.

The Eirenean and the Philoethean Literary societies of Lees-McRae high school were reorganized on February 5. The following officers were elected: Eirenean—President, Juanita Ciprian, Banner Elk; vice president, Gertrude Hickory, Elk Park; secretary and treasurer, Marvess Green, new Bedford Mass. Philoethean—President, Johnny Sue Freeman of Rutherfordton; vice president, Hattie Snyder, Chattanooga, Tenn.; secretary and treasurer, Lucille Callahan, Newport, Tenn.

WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY AT BLOWING ROCK

The Women's Missionary Society held its regular meeting at the Baptist church on February 9 at 2:30 o'clock. The meeting was opened by a song and prayer. The subject, "What is a Missionary?" was interestingly rendered in the following order:

Bible Study, by different members.

What is a Missionary? by Miss Ventres.

Christ, the Missionary, read by Misses Boush Wooten and Velma Cannon.

Modern Missionary Heroism, by Mrs. Pendley.

Reading "William Carey's Vision," by Mrs. Jeff Brown.

The World's Missionary Force and the Missionary's Reward, by Mrs. D. P. Coffey.

A large number of members were present also new members and visitors from other churches were present as follows: Mrs. Lon Peoples, Mrs. S. L. Cannon, Mrs. H. Cooper, Miss Ventres, Mrs. Joe Panella and Mrs. N. C. Greene. The society was glad to have these new members and visitors.

After closing song and prayer, all were invited to the home of Mrs. J. T. Miller for the social hour. Assisted by Mrs. Rob Greene the hostess served two delicious courses, the first consisting of chicken salad with dressing and beaten biscuits, the second ice cream, pound cake and coffee. The hour for departure arrived all too soon. The next meeting will be held March 9th at the church, and the social hour at some member's home to be decided on later.

VALLE CRUCIS NEWS

Valle Crucis, Feb. 16.—C. T. Baird, who has been in Detroit during the winter has returned home because of Mrs. Baird's illness.

Rev. and Mrs. J. P. Burke are at home again after an absence of about six weeks on vacation and business. The end of last week Mr. Burke was called to Bessemer City on account of the illness and death of his mother.

Misses Bouldin, Ricard, Pearl Moretz and Katharine Witten spent last week in Hickory attending the Bishop's Crusade.

Miss Wilma Baird has gone to Vero Beach, Fla., to visit her aunt, Mrs. W. T. Lane.

Mrs. T. H. Taylor and Mrs. W. H. Wagner spent last Thursday night in Hickory with Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Menzies, Jr.

Misses Sossie and Alice Taylor left last Friday on a two weeks' motor trip to Florida with Dr. and Mrs. A. W. Duia.

Mrs. W. D. Clarke and son, W. D. Clarke, of Lenoir, spent the week-end with Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Mast.

Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Shall drove up from Elizabethton on Saturday. Mr. Shall returning Monday and Mrs. Shall remaining to visit her parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Caudill.

Mr. and Mrs. P. G. Spaulhour took Mrs. Spaulhour's mother, Mrs. N. L. Mast, to the Banner Elk Hospital on Monday, where she will remain for observation and treatment.

T. D. Heffner spent the week-end in the valley.

Need For Farm Agent in Watauga County

Normal School Student Presents Argument on Affirmative Side of Important Question

(The following paper was written in the high school history class of Prof. I. G. Greer at the Normal in a study of the subject of a farm agent for Watauga. As a reward to the student who should write the best paper Prof. Greer agreed to have it sent to the papers for publication. This first prize paper was written by Miss Mabel Bingham of Watauga county.)

In the last few years there has been a great deal said for and against a farm demonstration agent for Watauga county. Those who oppose a county demonstration agent contend that he is not worth to the farmers of the county what he costs. They say, and with a great deal of force to the argument, that the chief difficulty of the farmer, especially in Watauga county, is the excessively high taxes which he has to pay; that the tax rate is so high that it is almost impossible for him to pay his taxes and support his family from the products of his farm; and that this condition is the chief cause for the phenomenal depreciation in the price of farm lands within the last four or five years. They also argue that the population of the county being largely rural, the principal source of revenue for the expenses of the county must be derived from taxes levied on the farm and farm products of the county, and all expenses of the county which are not absolutely necessary should be cut out. Another argument advanced against a county demonstration agent is that all the citizens and taxpayers are not directly benefited by his work, and that only those who are benefited should have to pay him.

Still another reason advanced is that a farm demonstration agent does not understand local conditions and that those who have lived in the community know more of conditions than anyone they could obtain who would be approved by the state and national governments, and that the experience of the county with the demonstration agent has proved very unsatisfactory.

Having noted some of the objections to a county demonstration agent for Watauga county, let us examine briefly some of the things in which an agent for Watauga should specialize.

First of all, he should specialize in Irish potatoes, and that means that he should know not only how to raise them, but also how to market them. There is no crop, perhaps, to which the soil of Watauga county is so well adapted as potatoes, and certainly no crop is so profitable.

He should also thoroughly understand how to grow and market cabbage, with special emphasis on marketing. If Watauga county could always have a market at a reasonable price for the cabbage raised, it would make farming in the county independent and would double the value of the farm land suitable for this particular crop.

Another important crop in which he could specialize is fruit growing. The possibilities of this line of industry is almost beyond estimation. The soil and climate are ideal for apple growing and there is always a good market for first class apples.

The cheese industry for the county is in its infancy, and a county demonstration agent who understands the cheese business could be of great value to the farmers of the county.

Another need of Watauga county is to develop the canning industry so as to take care of surplus fruits and vegetables, and a demonstration agent who understands this business and can interest the citizens in developing it, will be of great service to the county.

The demonstration work that has already been done in the poultry business has been of great value to the county, and is yielding fine profits to those who are engaged in the business, and are taking care of their fowls according to what they have learned through demonstration work. This is a field that has hardly been touched, and yet it brings more money into the county at the present time than any other single industry.

Having considered some of the objections to a farm demonstration agent, and having briefly noted some of the things in which he should

CAROLINA MOTOR CLUB OFFICER VISITS BOONE

W. F. Shipman, assistant district manager of the Carolina Motor Club, with headquarters in Greensboro, was in Boone last week getting the organization started here. Ralph Winkler's garage was appointed the official garage for the club to give free emergency road service to members of the club, also as information bureau and will be equipped with maps, road reports, tour books, etc.

There are numerous benefits to be had by members, the club giving free emergency road service, offers \$50 reward for member's car if stolen, furnishes member with \$50 bond card and free legal assistance, full membership in the American Automobile Association which entitles the member to the reciprocal courtesies of over 900 other clubs in the United States. The membership also includes subscription to the Carolina Motorist, monthly magazine of the club. Members dues also make it possible for the club to carry on accident prevention work, legislation eliminating illegal speed traps and advertising to attract outside tourists to North Carolina.

Those joining the club last week were Mayor D. J. Cottrell, Dr. J. M. Gaither, Dr. H. B. Perry, Dr. J. B. Hagaman and Dr. J. M. Hodges.

FRANCE WILL NOT ENTER NAVAL LIMITATION CONFAB

Paris, Feb. 15.—The French government has politely declined President Coolidge's proposal for a new naval limitation conference.

The French reply, made public this evening, says that the government is convinced that following the American proposal would risk compromising the success of the work which the League of Nations has already undertaken.

Specialize, we will now consider some of the advantages to the county generally of having a farm demonstration agent.

In the first place we are to assume that he understands something of the needs of the people and the conditions to be met. One of the chief reasons for having a farm demonstration agent is to help the farmer to better to better understanding of the crops that he should grow and which can be profitably grown, and the kind of cattle and fowls that he should raise in order to enable him to pay his taxes and meet the higher living expenses of modern life. In making an investment, the most important question is not always cost, but due consideration for the advantages to be derived. It is true that the cost of a farm demonstration agent is negligible when compared to the benefits derived from the right kind of agent.

What the people of Watauga need is not so much to reduce taxes as to increase production along proper lines. There is a market for all the products to which Watauga is peculiarly adapted, and we need some one whose business it is to find this market.

It is true that taxes are so high as to be burdensome in this county, having spent so much for good roads and other improvements, and that the burden of taxation must be borne by the farmers of the county. It is, therefore, important that his income must in some way be increased. The best way to increase the income of the farmer is by a system of education, and the best way to do this is to have an expert to take the lead in the work.

An example of what may be accomplished in this way is the poultry business. A few fowls are kept on almost every farm, they fail to pay expenses because of poor attention. A few flocks are being cared for according to methods recommended by the demonstration agent. A hundred hens, taken care of in this way, are making their owners more than one dollar profit per day. This is only one instance of the many ways in which the farmers of the county could be benefited by a live demonstration agent.

Experiments conducted by the national and state governments have proved the value of this kind of work, and both state and nation are willing to pay part of the salary of an agent in order to give the counties the advantage of expert assistance. If Watauga county is to keep pace with the progressive counties of the state, she must have a demonstration agent.

News of a Week At Blowing Rock

Preparations Now Being Made for Summer Season, Which Will Open About May 1

Blowing Rock, Feb. 16.—In preparation for the opening of the summer season on May 1, the Green Park hotel is planning extensive improvements, Manager O. W. Spencer has announced.

More baths will be added before the beginning of the season, Mr. Spencer said, and the interior decorations will be gone over and renovated. New paper will be put on the walls, and the woodwork will be repainted. A steam heating system will be installed practically throughout the building.

Outdoor, the landscaping will have attention, in connection with the extensive work being done in enlarging and remodeling the Green Park Golf course, which circles the hotel. The hotel grounds will be beautified and landscaped to harmonize with the remodeled golf course.

A complete system of fire protection will be installed, Mr. Spencer said, and other improvements will be made for the comfort of summer tourists.

Donald J. Boyden, manager of the Blowing Rock hotel, announces that his hotel also will do extensive work in improving the service before the hotel opens for the summer on June 15.

Managers of the other hotels had not been heard from at the time of going to press.

Fourth Well Being Bored

Drilling of a new municipal well, the fourth in the town's chain to supply the water system, was begun in Green Park last Thursday. At the same time, ditching was begun for the six-inch water main connecting Green Park with the town water system. This work was begun immediately on receipt of news of passage of the bill by the senate to annex Green Park and Mayview Park to the corporate limits. The work will be completed in about two months, said Councilman N. C. Greene, in charge of the work.

A Myers pump has been purchased by the town from the Myers Pump Company of Greensboro. The pump, which has a capacity of 45 gallons a minute, will be used on the Green Hill well, and it is expected to supply Green Park with all the water it needs, though as a safety measure Green Park will have connection with all three of the reservoirs. The pump, motor and all attachments cost \$1,400.

Bridge Nearing Completion

The bridge being built across New River at Chestnut Lane is almost completed, A. M. Critcher, in charge of the work, has announced.

Death of Mrs. Pitts

Funeral services were conducted Friday for Mrs. Roy Pitts, who died early Thursday morning of diabetes. Mrs. Pitts was a sister-in-law of E. G. Pitts, prominent Blowing Rock building contractor. She was a member of the Winkler family of Lenoir.

Oyster Supper

Forty-seven dollars were taken in at the oyster supper and dance held here Saturday night to celebrate the opening of the new town hall. The money was donated to the fire department.

Saturday morning the truck made several practice runs with Engineer Paul Klutz at the wheel. Connections were made and streams were started with a speed and precision worthy of city departments. Chief Panella said.

New Store Building

Craig and Coon, general merchandise dealers, announce that work will be started at once on a stone building to replace their present frame building. The stone is already on the ground. The new building will be thirty feet deeper than the present building. New counters and shelving will be installed, but the electric meat cutting machinery and electric refrigerator showcases already in use will be retained.

Birthday Dinner

Mrs. J. H. Presnell and Mrs. Elijah Reid were guests of honor at a birthday dinner given them Sunday by Mrs. Reid's daughter, Miss Lucile Reid and her sister, Miss Nettie Winkler. Mrs. Presnell and Mrs. Reid received many congratulations, as well as gifts honoring the occasion, and merriment reached its height with the cutting of the birthday cake pre-

COUNTY GOVERNMENT REFORM URGED BY GOVERNOR McLEAN

Governor McLean on Tuesday in a special message to the North Carolina general assembly, urged taking "the first step to reduce the ever-increasing burden of local taxes" and five legislative bills were immediately introduced looking to that end.

The governor's special message to the assembly followed his biennial message on convening of the assembly in January in the interest of improvement in county operation, especially finance.

County government reform has been studied by a commission for the last two years and Tuesday's bills accompanied the message. The bills expressly would provide:

Improved methods of county government.

Improved methods of administration of fiscal affairs of counties by uniform accounting systems, prevention of deficits, balanced budgets and economical and business-like management.

A county finance bill to limit indebtedness similar to the municipal finance act.

Improved tax collection systems.

House committees Tuesday reported unfavorably the Poole anti-evolution bill and reported favorably on the Australian ballot bill.

WILL OPERATE THEATER AT BLOWING ROCK

Lenoir, Feb. 15.—W. N. Sherrill, owner and manager of the Imperial theater of this place, has leased the Mayview theater at Blowing Rock from J. G. Ballew, and will operate it this season in connection with the local one. Mr. Sherrill expects to put on a number of special features there during the summer, some of which have already been signed for.

The Mayview theater was owned by W. L. Alexander of the Mayview Development Company and J. G. Ballew. Last year when the property was advertised and sold Mr. Ballew bought it in.

Faith With Scrapple—Owen Wister said at a Logan luncheon.

"This is the scrapple season, but it is only in Philadelphia that one can really enjoy scrapple. For Philadelphia is the home of the famous dish, and elsewhere scrapple is suspect."

Mr. Wister laughed. "For the perfect enjoyment of love," he said, "there must be perfect confidence—and this is also true of scrapple."—Pittsburgh Chronicle-Telegraph.

So's Your Old Man

Prof: Is this wrong? "I have it?"
Student: Yes.
Prof: What's wrong with it?
Student: You ain't et yet.

Personal Mention

A new nine-pound boy arrived on February 10 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Clausen.

Misses Lucie Williams and Mabel Coffey and Henry Conrad motored to Winston-Salem recently.

Miss Helen Coffey has returned from a delightful visit of three weeks with friends in Lincolnton and Mooresville.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Panella drove to Charlotte recently, spending the week-end with friends and relatives there and returning to Blowing Rock on Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Jimmie Hodges of Knoxville are visiting in the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Hodges here.

Miss Comie Moody will spend the week-end in Knoxville.

The ladies of Blowing Rock have shown sustained interest in the establishment of a fire department here, having raised much of the money by various activities. At an oyster supper given in Young's Cafe Saturday night \$17.50 was cleared toward the equipment of the volunteer company organized here with Joe Panella as chief and Lloyd Underdown as assistant chief.

Mrs. Rufus Coffey has just returned from Statesville where she has been for hospital treatment. Mrs. Ed Robbins and Mrs. S. J. Stutz are now in Dr. Long's sanatorium in that city.

A very interesting meeting of the Men's Club was held Monday evening at the Presbyterian church. An inviting supper was served the members of the club and their guests by the ladies of the Auxiliary.

Road Commission and Bookkeeper for County

Two Important Measures Introduced in Assembly by Representative Thos. H. Coffey

On last Friday Representative Thomas H. Coffey introduced two bills in the house that will, if enacted into law, mean a great deal to Watauga county, or at least that is what friends of the legislation believe.

One bill, entitled "Amend 1925 act relating to road commission for Watauga county." It is proposed in this bill to strike out the names of the board of county commissioners and insert instead the names of three citizens who will compose a road commission. As to who will compose this commission The Democrat has not been informed.

The other bill introduced Friday would create a bookkeeper for Watauga county. The purpose of this bill is to have all records of the county so kept that all necessary information can be placed before the several boards on each first Monday in order that they may intelligently handle the finances of the county and not make appropriations without available funds, and also to eliminate long and expensive audits. In other words, to give the county a careful and businesslike government at a minimum cost. The provisions of the bill follows:

"Sec. 1. That the board of county commissioners of Watauga county is hereby authorized and empowered to appoint a bookkeeper whose business it shall be to keep all records of receipts and expenditures of each and every department of the county government.

"Sec. 2. These records shall be so kept that the board of county commissioners, board of education and road commission shall have on the first Monday of each month a complete balance sheet showing the amount of money due from uncollected taxes, money on hand, amounts appropriated for any and all purposes, amounts paid out, and to whom paid and amounts still due.

"Sec. 3. These balance sheets shall show a separate and complete account of each fund for which the taxes were levied, so that the said board of county commissioners, board of education and road commission shall have on each first Monday of each month a clear and concise statement of the financial condition of each and every department of the county government.

"Sec. 4. The board of county commissioners shall have the authority to fix the salary of the bookkeeper, which shall not be more than one hundred and twenty-five dollar per month."

DINNER PARTY

Mr. and Mrs. Paul A. Coffey entertained at a six o'clock dinner party last Wednesday evening. The table was lavishly with the centerpiece, a large silver vase, filled with white flowers. A delicious three-course dinner was served, to the following guests who later in the evening enjoyed several rubbers of bridge: Mr. and Mrs. O. L. Hardin, M., and Mrs. M. P. Critcher, Misses Carrie Coffey and Mary Coonhill.

TRIPLETT HAPPENINGS

Triplet, Feb. 13.—Revs. Carroll and Runeyett of Avery county, traveling evangelists, passed through this section last week on their preaching tour to West Virginia.

Z. T. Watson's writing school, the second term here this winter, is largely attended. It will close Thursday, the 17th.

Mrs. Nancy Hodges who has been very ill for the past week, is slowly improving.

Rev. D. M. Wheeler is holding a series of meetings at Mt. Pleasant church.

Miss Betty Hayes left yesterday for Boone where she enters the Normal for the present term.

Plenty of saw mills are in operation here now, since hickory crosses came on the market.

E. H. Simmons sold one hog to Arlie Brown for \$50. How does this price compare with the price of hogs 25 years ago?

Vess Wheeler, attorney of Chattanooga, Tenn., visited his mother here last week.

What about the springlike weather in February? The willow leaves are more than an inch long and the Easter flowers will soon appear if the warm days continue.

(Miss) Jessie Hayes, Correspondent.