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PRICE FIVE CENTS

Happenings In and About Blowing Rock

Interesting News of Past Week From Famous Resort Town

Blowing Rock, March 23.—What might have been a disastrous fire and rapid work of Blowing Rock's new fire truck last Tuesday night with the large barn in the rear of Holshouser's store caught fire and threatened the store, the Holshouser residence, the Romy Rupert house and a frame store building across the alley from the store.

When Chief of Police Gene Story turned in the alarm, the truck responded with Engineer Rob Greene at the wheel. Under the direction of Fire Chief J. A. Panella, two streams of water were soon playing on the flames, which were confined to one section of the barn. Two horses and a cow in the barn were saved. Rupert's house, which was ten feet from the barn, was slightly damaged.

Mr. Holshouser said it would be difficult to estimate the loss, as the barn was an old building, and the insurance covered both the barn and store.

Donald J. Boyden, who has leased Mayview Manor for the season, said last week while he was here that, although he will give his personal attention to the Manor, he wants it distinctly understood that he has not severed his connection with the Blowing Rock Hotel.

"Mr. Moore will be in direct charge of Blowing Rock Hotel," Mr. Boyden said, "but he will be under my supervision."

In regard to Mayview Manor, Mr. Boyden said that the rates will be lowered some, but not materially, and that he will give his particular attention to the service and the kitchen.

Blowing Rock Hotel is to be improved by the installation of more bathrooms and other modern fixtures and conveniences. The cottages attached to the hotel will be improved with fireplaces in all rooms that do not already have them.

Work has been started on the new \$20,000 summer home of Mrs. Elliott Reed, of Savannah, Ga. The house is being built on an eminence to the south of Mayview Manor, where it will command a view of the gorge of Grandfather mountain. J. Lee Hayes, the contractor, says the house will be finished by the time Mrs. Reed comes here for the summer. It will be of bark finish and will be built in the distinctive mountain chalet style.

Other building improvements announced by Mr. Hayes are:

The addition of a second story to the summer home of Mrs. C. M. Carson, of Charlotte. This home is in Green Park.

The erection in Green Park of a new \$5,000 summer home of Rev. Mr. Bowne, of High Point.

An addition to the summer home of T. C. Cox of Wadesboro.

Remodeling and enlarging at a cost of \$7,000 the summer home in Green Park of D. J. Craig, of Statesville.

Repairs and additions to the houses of Tom Shelton and Henry Duff, both of Charlotte. These houses are on Blowing Rock Hill.

Recovering of the house of Miss Clara Knox, daughter of the late J. M. Knox, of Salisbury.

Mr. Hayes has recently returned from Lenoir, where he built a fine summer home for himself and his family.

The brilliant sunshine and early summer temperatures of last week brought out road machinery and crews, which worked over the side streets of Blowing Rock. Mayor George Sudderth says the plan is to take advantage of every period of dry weather to improve the streets gradually, so that they will be in the best of condition by the time the first summer tourists arrive. Heretofore, the work has been begun too late, and early tourists found the streets in bad condition.

The sod on the new Green Park golf course is being rolled in preparation for sowing creeping bent and red top clover over the entire course.

The excavation for the new thirteen-acre green has been practically completed; moreover, the laurel and rhododendron thicket has been cleared for the extension at the twelfth fairway. The biggest part of this

"MURDERED" GIRL COMES TO LIFE IN KENTUCKY

Williamsburg, Ky., March 19.—A woman scorned, a girl dissatisfied with home and a tight-mouthed mountaineer formed the "eternal triangle" in a case which resulted in the mountaineer being sentenced to life imprisonment for "murder" that was never committed.

Two of the three principals today disclosed the circumstances under which Mary Vickery, 16 years old, disappeared; some bones were found in an abandoned mine shaft, and a woman's revenge sent Conley Dabney, 33, to the Frankfort reformatory under life sentence. The third, Marie Jackson, 27, was in jail as a seque.

Mary Vickery appeared at her former home here today after being missing and believed dead since August, 1925, and broke a silence that has kept Dabney in prison for more than a year.

"I disappeared from home because I was not happy with the home life with my father and step-mother," she said. "I had Conley Dabney take me in an automobile to a country railroad station. He left me there and I drove away. I took the train to Cincinnati, where I worked in a woolen mill.

"I heard about Dabney being charged with killing me, but I didn't want to be taken back home, so I kept silent and did not reveal that I was still alive. I stood it as long as I could and then decided to make it known that I was alive, so Dabney could be set free. I didn't want to go home, so I came to Williamsburg where I formerly lived."

From his prison cell in the reformatory Dabney told his story. He did not seem surprised when he was told that his "victim" was alive. The prisoner attributed his predicament to a chance acquaintance with Marie Jackson, chief prosecution witness against him at his trial. He said he was driving a taxicab in Harlan, Ky., and his wife and family were in Coal Creek, Tenn. He had several "dates" with the Jackson woman, he said.

"Marie Jackson swore against me because I would not leave my wife and go with her," he declared, as he recalled the story of the girl's disappearance, his arrest and conviction.

LIVINGSTON CLUB

The Livingston Club held its regular meeting on Monday afternoon with Miss Louise Critcher. The following program was rendered:

Song, by society.
Devotional reading, Mrs. H. G. Farthing and Miss Alice Council.
Poem, "The Kneeling Camel," Miss Dorothy Gragg.

Prayer, led by Mrs. F. A. Linney.
Japanese Wags, Miss Elizabeth Moore.

Several matters of business, business were transacted and Mrs. H. G. Farthing was elected as delegate to represent the society at the annual meeting at Greensboro.

After the benediction, the hostess, assisted by Miss Council, served refreshments.

The next meeting will be held in April with Mrs. Louise Hodges.

SINCLAIR MOVES

FOR NEW TRIAL

Washington, March 21.—Harry F. Sinclair, millionaire oil man, convicted last week for contempt of the senate, because of refusal to answer oil investigating committee questions in 1924, filed today in the District supreme court a motion for a new trial. He cited twenty alleged grounds for granting the trial.

SPRING MADE ITS OFFICIAL BOW MONDAY

Spring officially arrived at 9:59 Monday morning. The vernal equinox—the sun's crossing the equator on its northward journey—however, found winter still lingering in many sections of the land.

task is finished, but the stumps are yet to be pulled, the ground is to be plowed and rolled and the grass is to be planted.

Miss Louise Isenhour, who is a student at the Appalachian State Normal School in Boone, spent the last week-end here with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Titon Isenhour.

J. A. Panella made a business trip to Statesville last week.

H. C. Martin has re-opened his store on Main street and is making preparations for the opening of the Martin cottage early in April.

All Counties Must Have Accountant

Official Must Be in Office By April 1; Dr. Brooks Sends Out Letter of Explanation

The attention of the commissioners of Watauga county is called to the fact that under the county reform act, passed by the 1927 general assembly, and especially under the fiscal affairs act, all counties are required to appoint a county accountant on or before April 1, in a letter sent out today to all the county commissioners of the 100 counties in the state by Dr. E. C. Brooks, chairman of the county government advisory commission. In addition to calling the attention of the commissioners to the five acts relating to county affairs, the following five points are pointed out in the fiscal affairs act:

1. That a county accountant must be appointed on or before the first Monday in April.

2. That an estimate of the needs of each department in the county for the next fiscal year must be made up on or before June 1.

3. That a budget estimate for the entire county must be prepared on or before the first Monday in July, at which time all sheriffs or tax collectors are required to settle with the county commissioners.

4. That the budget must be adopted by the fourth Monday in July and that thereafter all expenditures must be made in accordance with the budget provisions.

5. That taxes sufficient to produce the amount of revenue necessary to meet the budget needs must be levied by the first Wednesday after the third Monday in August.

Within the next few weeks, the commission on county government will employ several trained experts, who will be sent to the various counties, on request, to help them prepare their budget estimates, and get the new machinery in operation, the letter states. Within a short time a digest of all the county acts will be prepared and distributed to the county commissioners, for their convenience and instruction.

In calling attention to the fact that the naming of a county accountant is the first step under the new law, it is further pointed out that he shall be "experienced in modern methods of accounting." In those counties having auditors, the auditor automatically becomes the county accountant. In counties where there is no auditor, however, as in the case of Watauga, it is mandatory that an accountant be selected by the commissioners. It is permissible for the county commissioners to select either the register of deeds or one of their own members as the county accountant, provided he can meet with the necessary qualifications.

Before the first of May, the county government commission will supply the necessary blanks to all county commissioners on which the budget may be made out, and will later assist in other ways to bring about a uniform system of bookkeeping.

The commissioners are expressly asked at this time not to introduce any new system of bookkeeping or to start a new set of books, until the new laws are studied carefully and until after the budget for the next fiscal year has been made out. Then it will be possible to take up the matter of new bookkeeping systems, and the advisory commission will assist in every way possible in the installation of new systems, the letter states.

ROMINGER HAPPENINGS

Rominger, March 23.—Every farmer in this section is very busy now plowing. The continued wet weather put them somewhat behind with the farm work.

M. C. Rominger and Ben Harmon, who have been at work in Pennsylvania, have returned to their homes here.

Charles Mast, son of John Mast, and Miss Bradie Presnell, daughter of N. V. Presnell, were married recently. R. M. Ward, justice of the peace, officiating.

Lynville Ward and Miss Dare Presnell went to Banner Elk a few days ago, Miss Presnell taking up work at the Grace hospital.

J. B. Ward and Miss Mary Ward were united in marriage a few days ago, Rev. Presnell performing the ceremony.

M. P. Travett made a business trip to Elk Park and Heaton last Saturday.

SHANGHAI NOW IN THE HANDS OF NATIONALISTS

Shanghai, China, March 21.—The native city of Shanghai, China's greatest port and an important trade center, which fell into the hands of the Nationalist troops this morning, was seething tonight with a bitter street fight and turbulent riots. Sitting on the lid of the 900 inhabitants of the international settlement, were 15,000 foreign protective forces, including 1,500 United States marines, backed by the big guns of the large international fleet in the Whangpo river.

Several times today the foreign settlement felt reverberations of the chaos reigning in the native city, but tonight it was very quiet with its residents obeying the warning to remain indoors.

The situation, created by the precipitate retreat of the Northern troops and the advance of the Southern army, was one of the greatest gravity for the foreign population and its defenders. With a general strike effective and the streets filled with turbulent natives, the position of the international settlement was fraught with danger.

The advance guard of the nationalists, consisting of plain clothes forces, who invaded the native city this morning, were fought by the retreating Shanghaiese and white Russians and a reign of terror began, which continued tonight. The north-wards and the plain clothesmen fought fiercely and many casualties were reported. Several great fires started during the struggle. Tonight the streets of the entire foreign settlement were guarded by troops of the many nationalists. Shops and houses were closed, and only a few people were on the streets.

General Ho Ying Yun, commander of the Nationalist troops in the province of Chekiang, who achieved one of the Cantonese chief ambitions in the capture of the great city, still was resting on the outskirts tonight, and was expected to enter Shanghai tomorrow, heading the first Nationalist division.

THE WORTH WHILE CLUB

On Friday, the eighteenth, the Worth While Club met at the home of Mrs. J. Frank Moore with Mrs. Moore and Mrs. Chas. Stevenson joint hostesses. The rooms were beautiful with decorations of spring flowers, a pretty background for the array of cotton dresses. For it was "Cotton Day" with the Worth While Club, and quite a variety of cotton frocks were on hand. This affair was part of a state-wide movement to increase the use of cotton goods in woman's wardrobe. The dress often suggested by the cotton growers, that women can look as well and be as tastefully dressed in cotton as silk, was certainly strengthened by this exhibit.

Judges for the occasion were Misses Lily Dale and Annie Dougherty, of the A. S. N. S., and Mrs. J. D. Lester. Prize winners were Mrs. Charles Stevenson first, with Mrs. Carl Winkler second. Prizes, too, reflected the cotton idea, the first being a handsome pair of pillow cases and second a towel set.

The program for the day was on the subject of Ireland and St. Patrick. Mrs. J. A. Williams gave a brief sketch of the life and works of St. Patrick, a poem about St. Patrick's birthday was read by Mrs. W. G. Hartzog, with two well-rendered solos by Miss Margaret Lovin. After these the hostesses, assisted by Misses Lina Turner served a delectable two-course luncheon, in which the color scheme of green and white was well carried out.

The dominant interest centered in the cotton dresses, of which there was great variety. There were dresses of almost every type from the simple house dress to the more formal type suitable for church or afternoon wear. "King Cotton" himself would have been delighted at the varied uses to which the white staple was put. In some of the dresses, only a close observer would have detected the substitution for silk or georgette; some of the street dresses might easily have been taken for foulard.

The whole exhibition seemed to prove that if no other material were available, we could all still be well dressed in cotton. No doubt the movement will result in a greater and more widespread use of cotton as a material for the art of the modiste.

PROVISIONS OF THE WOLTZ EDUCATION BILL AS PASSED BY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

DEVELOPMENT OF THE SHATLEY RADIUM SPRINGS

Work was begun this week by a firm of West Jefferson contractors on an improved road from State Highway 68 to Shatley Springs, which will soon be developed into one of the leading watering places of America by the expenditure of \$1,000,000.

Within the next two weeks, according to T. T. Cole, vice-president and general manager of the Radium Springs Corporation, work will be started on several cottages to house those who are coming to the springs before the new buildings can be completed. In addition, a large temporary building, divided into wards, will be constructed to take care of the overflow patients until the permanent buildings are finished.

The contract has already been let to a North Wilkesboro firm for the first permanent building, which will combine the aspects of hotel, sanitarium and club house. This building will be so constructed that it can be converted for use solely as a club house when the new 150-room hotel and the permanent sanitarium are completed.

The permanent buildings will be started, Mr. Cole said, as soon as the surveying and landscaping are completed. In addition, the springs themselves will be enclosed with masonry and covered with a canopy, all of native stone work. On each side of the spring and inside the stone pillars will be a solarium for patients.

Mr. Cole denied the report that the water loses any of its healing properties when it is shipped. He quoted the chemist who analyzed the water as saying that the water, when it arrives in New York and other distant places, has all the healing powers that it does when it leaves the spring.

Your correspondent, on a visit to Ashe county, found the people there very enthusiastic about the development. All of them apparently believe this to be the greatest thing that has ever happened for Ashe county, and they are looking forward to a period of rapid expansion, as the springs bring outside capital into the county. Nearly all of the leading citizens of the county are heartily behind the development, many of them to the extent of taking large blocks of stock in the company.

VALLE CRUCIS NEWS

Valle Crucis, March 23.—Miss Mina Shull spent the week-end at home with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Shull.

Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Lowrance have our sympathy in the loss of their infant daughter, aged about ten days, who was buried on Clark's Creek on Sunday.

Miss Susie Taylor and the Rev. J. P. Burke made a trip to Morganton last Thursday on business for Holy Cross church.

Mrs. W. D. Clark and son, W. D. Clark, are visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Mast.

Miss Nannie Taylor returned to Charlotte on Sunday, after a week with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Taylor.

Miss Mollie Townsend, who has spent the winter studying in New York, is at home for a few months, before returning to her mission work in China.

James Taylor, student at State College, Raleigh, spent last week at home.

Mr. and Mrs. P. G. Spainhour visited Mrs. N. L. Mast at Grace Hospital recently, and report that she is improving slowly.

T. D. Reffner has returned from the University where he has been studying since the first of the year.

A Question in English

"How many tenses are there?" asked a teacher of a boy.

"Seven," replied the lad.

"Seven, you say? What are they?"

"The present, the perfect, the imperfect, the pluperfect, the first future, the second future, and the—"

"The what?"

"Why that new one, the intense!" exclaimed the esthetic youth, triumphantly.

Modern Conversation

"I'm in favor of light wines and beers," insinuated the ritzy society gal.

"Not me," said her partner. "The wages of gin are death."

Creates Equalization Board and Authorizes Fund of \$3,250,000 for Purpose of Equalizing Taxes in Various Counties of State

PROVIDES 40 CENT-TAX LEVY

With Provision that Only 5 Per Cent Can Be Levied for Support of Six Months School Term, Except for Paying Higher Scale for Teachers Than State Schedule.

Below is the full text of the Woltz education bill as passed by the 1927 general assembly. The law provides for a tax levy of 40 cents on the \$100 valuation, and creates an equalization board composed of eleven members, one of whom is Dr. B. B. Dougherty, of Boone, president of the Appalachian State Normal School.

The act is as follows:
An Act to Provide for the Distribution of the Equalizing Fund for Certain Counties.

The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact:

Section 1. That the appropriation made under Title IV 5 (23) of Section 1 in "An Act to Make Appropriations for the Maintenance of the State's Institutions, the Various Departments, Bureaus and Agencies of the State Government" of the sum of \$3,250,000 for an equalizing fund for the year ending June 30, 1928, and of the sum of \$3,250,000 for an equalizing fund for the year 1929 shall be distributed among the various counties of the state as hereinafter provided.

Sec. 2. That a state board of equalization is hereby established, which shall be composed of eleven members, one of whom shall be the presiding officer of the senate and one member from each congressional district of North Carolina, to be appointed by the governor and confirmed by the senate before the adjournment of the regular session of the general assembly for the year 1927; said member shall serve for a period of four years from the time of their appointment and shall receive as compensation therefor the sum of ten dollars per day and expenses while actually engaged upon the business of the board. The state board of equalization shall have the power to appoint an executive secretary and such assistants as they may deem necessary and shall be provided with adequate quarters in the department of revenue. Said assistant and employee of said state board of equalization shall collect and organize data dealing with the valuation of property of the several counties of the state. The salary of all employees and members of the board shall be paid out of the equalization fund upon requisition drawn by the executive secretary and approved by the board.

Sec. 3. The duties of the state board of equalization shall be as follows: To investigate, study, compare and determine the true value of all property subject to taxation for each and every county in the state, which value shall be the basis upon which taxes for the six months school term shall be levied and collected and the basis upon which the equalizing fund shall be apportioned. In performing this duty the state board of equalization shall have the right to examine all records bearing on this subject in any public office in North Carolina, and it shall be the duty of all public officials in the state and all owners of property, both individual and corporate, to cooperate with said board and to give it upon request such information as they may have. The state board of equalization shall certify the total value of all property as by it determined of each and every county to the commissioner of revenue, to the state superintendent of public instruction, to the state auditor and to the board of county commissioners and the county board of education of each county not later than June first of each year, beginning with June 1, 1928. Said board shall also have authority to make such rules and regulations concerning the time and place of its meetings as it may determine and the right to conduct such hearings as it may deem necessary in the performance of its duties, and for that purpose may issue subpoenas under the hand of its chairman or secretary, compelling the attendance of persons and the production of papers at any time and place designated by said board, and shall also have the right

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