

WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

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BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 1927

PRICE FIVE CENTS

Happenings In and About Blowing Rock

Interesting News of Past Week From Famous Resort Town

Blowing Rock, March 20.—At a mass meeting of representative citizens of Blowing Rock last Wednesday night, it was voted to accept a building plan for the new school submitted by Dr. B. B. Dougherty, president of the Appalachian State Normal School at Boone.

The accepted plan provides for a gymnasium, an auditorium, eight classrooms, a library room and two offices for teachers.

It was proposed that the town and the county divide equally the cost of the building, as the county does not usually provide for gymnasiums in its consolidated schools. The town also would haul the materials. If brick is used, the building will cost about \$27,500. If stone is used, the cost will be somewhat lower.

As soon as a place can be provided, the cage and equipment of the old Watauga county jail will be moved to Blowing Rock and installed as the town jail, said Mayor Geo. M. Sudderth. Blowing Rock bought the old jail equipment to save the expense of taking minor offenders to the county seat.

Blowing Rock's insurance rating will be considered for revision as soon as the state bureau has finished with Charlotte, which is also having its rates revised, says a letter received by Mayor Sudderth from the state bureau of inspection and rating. Blowing Rock is now in the fourth class, but since the completion of the water works and the organization of a fire department, it is expected that the town will be raised to third class.

In spite of snow and slush, a large attendance and enthusiastic sessions were had at the quarterly conference last Thursday of the Baptist Women's Missionary Union of the Three Forks Association.

At the morning session the devotional exercises were led by Mrs. W. W. Wilson, and the following delivered addresses: Mrs. Nan Johnson, Mrs. Smith Hagaman, Mrs. Peudley, Mrs. W. Y. Farthing and Mrs. Lee Swift. Miss Ruth Dotson recited a poem. Mrs. J. A. McBride led the afternoon devotional, and addresses were delivered by Mrs. Coffey, Mrs. J. A. Williams and Mrs. J. M. Moore.

The Three Forks Association is one of the oldest in the state. It centers on the Three Forks church, founded in 1790.

Brilliant sunshine last Friday had melted what Blowing Rock and the mountain section generally hopes will be the last snow of the winter. With the return of fair weather, road machinery went into action throughout the mountain section. Graders were at work on the Boone Trail from Wilkesboro to the Tennessee line, on the Yonahlossee Trail out of Blowing Rock, and on a number of side roads.

Laying of surface rock on the Blowing Rock end of the Lenoir highway has been completed and it is now being leveled in preparation for the rest of the bar.

The Blowing Rock chamber of commerce is seeking to correct the impression that this road is impassable or is difficult to travel. This they point out, is one of the best up-the-mountain roads in the state. The highway crews are merely engaged in making a good road better and are not in any way impeding traffic.

Routine business was the main occupation of the Methodist quarterly conference of the Boone and Blowing Rock churches here Saturday night. Several speakers addressed the meeting which was well attended and enthusiastic.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Boyden are now occupying one of their cottages at Blowing Rock hotel, where Mr. Boyden is overseeing the preparation of that hotel and of Mayview Manor for their spring opening. Mr. and Mrs. Boyden will be in Blowing Rock continually from now until the end of the summer season.

Mrs. Etta Norvill, of South Carolina, and Miss Norvill are now occupying one of their cottages and are putting the others in readiness for summer.

Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Winkler are back in Blowing Rock, after spend-

LINNEY CHURCH DID NOT DIE OF POISONING

Linney Church, a Wilkes county boy, in connection with whose death his cousin's husband, Bill Mason, was held on a charge of poisoning the boy, did not die of poisoning, according to a report by the state chemist on the analysis of the boy's stomach. The report was received in Boone Saturday by Dr. J. B. Hagaman, county coroner. The boy died in Wilkes county, but was buried in the Deep Gap section of Watauga county, and for that reason, of course, Dr. Hagaman had to exhume the body and send the stomach to Raleigh for analysis. Mason, who was held in the Wilkes county jail without bail pending the outcome of the analysis, was released from custody Saturday afternoon.

It is stated that Church's death resulted from a strain in his back caused by attempting to get Mason's car out of the mud.

MARINES TO START JOURNEY TO CHINA THIS WEEK

Washington, March 27.—The force of 1,500 marines now mobilizing over the country will begin the long journey to Shanghai this week to meet the request of Admiral C. S. Williams for additional men in view of the increasingly grave plight of Americans in Yangtze ports.

A detachment from Quantico, Va., and one from Paris, Island, S. C., will leave for San Diego direct, while marines from 12 other bases will assemble at Philadelphia to make the trip across the continent in a body. The transcontinental journey is expected to get under way about Wednesday.

WATAUGAN IN NICARAGUA

Among the U. S. Marines with the Fifth regiment, recently assigned to expeditionary duty in the Republic of Nicaragua, is Ralph Teague, of Blowing Rock, who was selected for service in the Central American republic, according to an official roster of the regiment.

The regiment left for abroad on the U. S. S. Henderson, late in February, when unsettled conditions in the republic made it advisable to send marines to protect American interests. Teague is 23 years old and was born in Boone, and made his home with his mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Teague, of Blowing Rock, before entering the service at Greensboro last November.

MUSIC RECITAL AT NORMAL

The pupils of Miss Ruth Coffey, head of the department of music at the Normal, were presented in piano recital at the auditorium on Saturday night. Miss Annie Dougherty, soprano, assisted in the recital.

A varied program of the classes was presented. The following pupils took part: Ruby Cottrell, Virginia Morez, Evelyn Mosteller, Naomi Lowery, Grace Crouse, Lucille Mast, Ruby Pennington, Mary Culbreth, Mary Raynor, Mary Kilby, Marie Harrell, Lillian Crouse, Lucile Sartin, Margaret Loven, Ollie Jean Coffey, Virginia South, Mary Edith Hahn, Garnett Nester, Jimmie Haggard and Paul Donnelly.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

Spanhours, Incorporated.
Valle Crucis Co., Valle Crucis.
Boone Hardware Company.
Watauga Lumber Company.
Liggett & Myers Tobacco Company.
Standard Oil Company.
Boone Chevrolet Company.
Stacey W. Wade, Insurance Commissioner.
Pastime Theater.

Miss Elizabeth Panella, of Charlotte, spent a recent week-end with her brother, Mr. J. A. Panella and wife. She returned to Charlotte with Mrs. Panella and Mrs. E. G. Underdown who motored to that city on business, returning by Statesville where they spent one night.

A large number of young people from Blowing Rock, Boone and other neighboring communities attended the dance given in the Robbins building last Friday evening. Music was furnished by the Daniel Boone orchestra.

An attendance of over 60 was reported at the Presbyterian Sunday school last Sunday, an increase of more than 50 per cent in the enrollment within the last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Critcher and their two sons are back in Blowing Rock, after spending the winter at Southern Pines.

New Automobile Law Is Now In Effect

Recent Enactments of the General Assembly Begin Operation Today

It may or may not be an April fool's joke if a cop waves you down on this well-known day of pranks. You may have violated a law that wasn't a law yesterday. Yes, the auto law has been revamped, revised and re-enacted.

The new version goes into effect today, April 1.

The 1927 code is new virtually all the way through.

Every car in Boone and Watauga county must carry a rear light; speed limit is increased to 45 miles an hour on highways, 20 miles in residential sections, 15 miles in business areas; 15 miles on curves and in school zones when pupils are about the buildings.

Driving while drunk merits 30 days' sentence to one year or \$100 to \$1,000 fine or both. Reckless driving merits five to 90 days in jail or \$25 to \$100 fine or both.

Cars must stop only at crossings designated by the state highway commission. Maximum car weights must not exceed nine tons, width 23 inches maximum. Certificates of test of lights must be carried. The highway commission does the testing. Lights must not show a glare above 42 inches at 75 feet.

Drivers must not coast downgrade by throwing gears into neutral. Drivers involved in accidents must stop.

Signs, posters, stickers are prohibited on front windshield, side wings, rear or side windows.

On and after July 1, the automobile license plates will remain with the car for a year instead of being transferred in event of sale.

License fees on all automobiles of 25 horsepower or less will be \$12.50 instead of \$20. On June 30 plates will be issued for six months, with extra fee of 25 cents to cover the special issue.

Effective July 1, the registration card must be kept in a container placed on cowl or instrument board and under the law the department is given authority to charge 50 cents for the container.

ANOTHER FIRST FOR OLD NORTH STATE IN CHINA

Washington, March 28.—In addition to being first at Bethel, furthest at Gettysburg and last at Appomattox, North Carolina was quickest at Scow Hill, China. Henry O. Warren, Quartermaster, third class, one of the bluejackets who signalled the American and British warships to start firing on the Cantonese at Nanking, hailed from Olin, Fredell county.

People here are lauding Warren, for he actually did the job.

COVE CREEK NEWS

Sugar Grove, March 30.—Mrs. Chas. J. Greene returned from her home at Russellville last week. While at home Mrs. Greene was operated on for tonsillitis.

Mr. and Mrs. S. F. Horton spent the past weekend in Lenoir and Gaffney, S. C., visiting Mrs. A. R. Barlow and Mrs. W. M. Phillips. Miss Bertie Phillips, of Gaffney, S. C., is visiting Mrs. S. F. Horton this week.

Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Taylor visited Mrs. N. L. Mast in the Grace Memorial Hospital at Banner Elk on Monday.

Basketball has been discontinued in favor of baseball here recently. Cove Creek will play Mabel next week.

On Friday night Cove Creek will debate Virginia-Carolina in the auditorium here. The subject is the Curtis-Reed bill pending for a federal department of education. The affirmative will be represented by Marilla Love and Ray Ellison, the negative by Hazel Norris and Paul Taylor. Our negative will go to Grassy Creek at the same time.

Arrangement has been made for a debate with the Boone high school within the next two weeks. The question is, "Resolved, that the 18th amendment to the federal constitution should be so changed as to provide for the sale of light wines and beer." The affirmative speakers will be Blaine Byers and Dayton Winebarger, while the negative will be upheld by Rebecca Taylor and Ivan Church.

Prune apple trees so that the sunlight can reach the leaves and fruit.

Progress of the Local American Legion Post

Plans Now Being Perfected For July Fourth Celebration; Roster Contains 54 Names

Watauga Post No. 139, American Legion, held its first 1927 meeting in the old Watauga County Bank building in Boone, N. C., on January 13th, and elected officers for the new year. Since that meeting fifty-four ex-service men have become a member of the post without solicitation and are working in harmony for the betterment of their fellow men, the community, schools, state, and nation.

As an indication of the interest being manifest in the local post, and the desire on the part of the World War veterans to become members, Commander L. S. Isaacs hands in the following letter, dated Pineola, N. C., March 18, 1927: "Please send me an application blank as I wish to join your post. My home address is Valle Crucis, but will probably be at the above address all the remainder of this year. I hear of the good work and interesting meetings you are having and I wish to become a member of your post." This letter is signed by Lyman R. Burkett, who was with the 17th U. S. Infantry, and also Company "L", 328th Infantry during the war.

Plans are being completed at each meeting of the post now to perfect the Fourth of July celebration, which is to be staged by the American Legion and the Legion Auxiliary. It is the desire of all the members to get all the boys who are eligible to become members of the post at the earliest date possible, so that when the roll is called in the Legion Park in Boone on July 4th, and there rally around the flag of the post and nation and have a great reunion with the boys and recall to memory bygone days of toils in service at home and abroad.

Our memory goes back in bereavement for our companions who fought for this great nation, shed their blood and fell on Flanders Field—who did not return with us and who cannot be present on July Fourth.

Every ex-service man is invited to attend the next regular meeting of the Post to be held in Boone on April 2 at 7:30 p. m. in the old Watauga County Bank Building. Commander Isaacs says these meetings are "your own meetings."

Following is a complete list of members of Watauga Post who are now in good standing:

B. Kelly Osborne, Sam F. Horton, Charles C. Rogers, J. Wilson Norris, S. C. Phillips, S. E. Day, Stewart J. Barnes, Charles L. Younce, Edgar B. Hardin, Troy Norris, J. Clifford McConnell, Russell D. Hodges, E. J. Burkett, Charles S. Stevenson, Lloyd S. Isaac, Ronda B. Hodges, Sylvester S. Gray, Tracy Council, Cunley M. Yates, Carter G. Cook, Vance C. Howell, John E. Combs, Linell Ward, Larnie L. Bingham, Edgar L. Payne, J. Bynum Taylor, Ernest M. Hodges, Roy L. Haynes, John F. Cook, Thos. Taylor, Stewart Barnes, Walter C. Winebarger, Lorenzo D. Woodward, W. Ernest Corser, Dean Swift, Dr. John B. Hagaman, G. Nile Cook, Sam Atkins, Luther N. Ward, Flake E. Duncan, Pomulus L. Mattha, Charles B. Dougherty, Spencer Miller, Donald G. Ward, J. Roy Latham, J. M. Cooke, Wiley L. Stanberry, James M. Burkett, Charles Watson, Marion G. Barnes, Marvin F. Thomas, Thos. I. Holloway, Lyman R. Burkett, Walter Lewis.

MRS. COTRELL'S MOTHER DIES IN CHARLOTTE

Lenoir, March 27.—Word was received here yesterday of the death in Charlotte of Mrs. J. C. Powell, widow of J. Clingman Powell, of this county. Mrs. Powell was spending the winter with her daughter, Mrs. Knox Henry in Charlotte, and two weeks ago was stricken, the illness ending in her death. She was in her 81st year.

Mrs. Powell made her home with Mrs. Henry in the winter and the summer were spent in Boone with her daughter, Mrs. Hill Cottrell.

Mrs. Powell was a member of the Presbyterian church and the funeral services were held from the Westminster Presbyterian church in Charlotte Saturday morning at 11 o'clock.

"There are two sides to every question," proclaimed the sage. "Yes," said the fool, "and there are two sides to a sheet of fly paper; but it makes a difference to the fly which side he chooses."—The Outlook.

SITUATION IN CHINA IS CONSIDERED SERIOUS

Washington, March 29.—Despite a lull in the storm of Chinese anti-foreignism which burst at Nanking last week, official word was received here today that the situation at Wuhu, farther up the Yangtze river, was worse and trouble might be expected at any moment.

At the same time, a message forwarded to the state department by Minister MacMurray at Peking, suggested immediate withdrawal of all Americans in nationalist territory and in view of the outbreak at Nanking "the undertaking of some action sufficiently strong to deter the perpetration of similar incidents elsewhere."

Coincident with the receipt of these advices, actual movement across the continent of the 1,500 additional marines, ordered to China got under way on the Atlantic seaboard, with indications that it would be a month before the transport Henderson, which will take them across the Pacific reaches Shanghai.

At the White House it was said on President Coolidge's behalf that he was opposed to any merging of American forces in China with those of other powers although he expressed the utmost co-operation.

The official reports from Nanking re-emphasized the belief of American investigators there that "the campaign of terrorism and insult to foreigners was not only officially countenanced and directed by nationalist leaders but even pre-arranged."

"The incident at Nanking could hardly have been more outrageous," a message relayed by Mr. MacMurray said, adding that there had been two attempts at criminal assault on American women during the rioting.

COURT WEEK IN APPALACHIA

Boone Monday had the appearance of a small town on circus day or county fair day. Mountaineers from every corner of the county were here, and all available parking space on the streets was taken up, and camp grounds were established on vacant lots near the courthouse.

Many of the visitors to the county seat brought their lunches and ate them on the courthouse grounds and on the vacant lots where they camped. Some of them even brought cooking utensils and prepared their meals on the spot. Those who went to restaurants for their food had to stand in line waiting for seats.

A book agent, selling "73 different books" from a family Bible "beautifully bound and decorated with 'new engravings' to histories, fiction and works on philosophy and psychology, held forth on the corner of Main street opposite the courthouse, and throughout Monday he was never without an audience that blocked half the street.

Also here, vendor set up a stand on the sidewalk in front of the courthouse and displayed a "new and improved crocheting needle" to the crowds.

A hot dog stand was doing a thriving business on the edge of the courthouse grounds. It had all of the regulation paraphernalia of a circus stand.

As court opened, a souvenir moonshine still made in the Boone Novelty factory was presented to Judge Walter E. Moore, presiding. It had the judge's name burned on the base of the still with the words, "Judge Walter E. Moore's Moonshine Still."

Squire Clay, who once cast the only Democratic vote in what is now Avery county, could not be kept away from Boone when court week opened. Although he is suffering from the effects of paralysis, he enjoys the court sessions as much as anyone present. The story is told that when Squire Clay went to Avery county, he was threatened by Republicans, who sought to prevent him from voting. The squire replied, "I'll show you a thing or two," and cast his Democratic vote, the only one in the township.

E. J. Norris, of Howard's Creek, was another interesting mountaineer present. Although he is past eighty, he says he can still bring down a squirrel from a lofty tree with a rifle.

A wrist watch serving as an alarm clock has been invented. A revolving unit with protruding points that touch the skin serves as the alarm.

Removal of Wagner Trial Ordered by Judge

Case Will Be Tried at August Term of Superior Court of Wilkes County

After a series of the most impassioned pleas ever heard in the Watauga county court house, the trial of Herbert S. Wagner on a charge of having killed last Christmas day Earl Moody at Fossil, was ordered transferred by Judge Walter E. Moore to Wilkes county for trial at the next term of superior court, which convenes in Wilkesboro on August 3, before Judge P. A. McElroy.

The order for the removal was given at 11:30 a. m., Wednesday, and attorneys for the defense and the prosecution immediately retired to confer on a suitable place for the trial. Shortly after noon they returned to the courtroom and informed the judge that they had agreed on Wilkes county. The judge ordered the removal and trial at the August term of court.

Solicitor John R. Jones then asked for a continuance of the case involving the killing of Dexter S. Byrd, and it was continued until the next term of court.

The removal order of Wednesday followed the failure Tuesday of the defense motion for a continuance. Heated arguments for and against the motion were heard before the judge who denied the motion.

In appealing for the removal Wednesday, Johnson J. Hayes made one of the most eloquent addresses ever heard here. He pleaded with the judge not to take Wagner's life without a fair trial, which, he asserted, could not be obtained in this county.

"It is as important," Mr. Hayes said, "for the defendant to feel that he has had a fair trial as it is to give him a fair trial. If he is convicted in this county, with sentiment county as it is, he will go to the electric chair feeling that he has been judicially murdered."

Frank A. Linney, Hayes' rival for the judgeship of the new federal district of middle North Carolina, followed with a plea that brought tears to the eyes of Lee Moody, father of one of the men killed by Wagner.

Mr. Linney denied positively that either Moody or Byrd had been active in stirring up sentiment against Wagner, as was alleged in an affidavit by Wagner, upon which the motion for removal was based. Mr. Linney also quoted the law in regard to the selection of jurors, and laid special stress on that part of it which states that the jury shall be composed of the defendant's peer. Mr. Linney said, is a neighbor who lives in the vicinage in which the crime is supposed to have been committed.

He argued also that the same situation that is complained of in the affidavit as existing in Watauga county exists also in all of the adjoining counties, to which the case could be removed, for the same newspapers circulate in all of them. It was to the newspapers that Wagner's affidavit attributed a large part of the alleged hostile sentiment in Watauga county.

J. H. Burke of Taylorsville, named the defense with its argument of Tuesday for a continuance. "Yesterday," Mr. Burke said, "the defense argued that the citizenship of Watauga is so honorable and so just that it is willing to wait until a later date for the trial. Today they say that this same Watauga citizenship is so biased that a fair trial cannot be had here."

W. C. Newland closed for the defense by answering Mr. Linney's argument about jury selection. He asserted that the jury should not be composed of men who knew all about the case, but rather of strangers who knew nothing.

After the arguments had closed, Judge Moore said that since he had been in Boone he had learned through conversations he had overheard and through other channels that a sentiment does actually exist in Watauga county in regard to this case, and that this sentiment justifies the order for removal.

Witnesses subpoenaed in the case were called and instructed without further notice to appear at the August term of Wilkes superior court. The witnesses were recognized under \$200 bond for their appearance at the time.

Court got under way Monday with Judge Walter E. Moore, of Syl-

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