

# WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

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BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

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## ROBBERS ROOST TREASURE, MONTANA, ELUDES SEARCHERS

Butte, Mont.—There is a possibility that more than \$300,000 in nuggets and gold dust is buried near Robbers Roost, a two-story house used as a rendezvous by Plummer and his gang of road agents in the halcyon days of hectic Alder Gulch, the richest gulch in the history of the world.

That the fortune in gold was buried within 100 yards of one of the corners of the corral at Robbers Roost and as far as known has never been found was asserted by William Owsley, Montana prospector, member of the famous vigilantes and one of Butte's first mayors. He told the story of the buried treasure a few months ago when he was here several years ago.

The gold was buried by Henry Plummer, who, while sheriff, was the leader of the greatest band of road agents in history. The cache was Plummer's private spoils taken with untraced thousands from the stages and gorgeous miners of "the Days of Alder Gulch."

Robbers Roost is still standing on the main road to Virginia City and is one of the landmarks of Madison county. A family is living in the place, which is still in fair condition for a house built in the early sixties. The corral, an important point in Owsley's story, disappeared many years ago.

"When he had to stand the acid test, Plummer was yellow," said Owsley. "I never told the story before, but Col. W. F. Sanders, X. Beldier, myself and others hung the head of the road agent at Bannack, January 10, 1864.

Plummer lived near the home of Col. W. F. Sanders and when we entered his house to get him he was in bed. He put up a great game of bluff when we first got him, as he was the sheriff of the territory.

"When Plummer fully realized he was to hang on a scaffold he had erected to hang a man he had arrested he broke down and groveled like a cur. Of course none of us was masked, and he knew me pretty well."

"A few minutes before the rope was placed around his neck he threw his arms around me and said, 'Owsley, I will take you to a place where I have buried \$300,000 in dust cache.'"

"I pushed him away and he again grabbed me."

"Hanging me will not give back that dust," the doomed man said, "I'll take you over to Robbers Roost and if the gold is not where I say you can cut me into pieces. Just give me a horse after I show you the cache and I'll leave the territory forever."

"As I started to push him away again," continued Owsley, "Plummer said, 'I'll tell you it is within 100 yards of the corner of the corral.'"

"The rope was placed on his neck and then he asked us to see that he didn't strangle to death, and all the while he kept begging me to see if the vigilantes would grant him a day to live."

"Did you ever look for the gold?" Owsley was asked.

The hearty, contagious laugh known to so many, broke out, and, wiping his eyes, the trail blazer said: "I felt convinced that Plummer spoke the truth, and I spent several weeks each year digging for more than five years."

"Sixty" and the old pioneer became serious, "you chaps have no idea what it means to try to dig somewhere around 100 yards from four corners of a big corral. I should have had a team shovel."

"I have kept more or less of a tab on the place ever since and to the best of my knowledge and belief the gold has never been found. Of course if some one did accidentally hit onto it, they would never have whispered about it."

Owsley had the first-class stable in Butte. During his term as mayor, a fly-by-night company started to lay tracks for a street railway against the objections of the mayor and council. Mayor Owsley returned to his stable and saw a length of track in Main street. The famous character was one of the strongest men in Montana. He walked down to where the rails had been spiked to the ties.

With the strength of several husky men, pulled the length of completed track off the center of the street. He then walked back to the stable, pulled a chair outside the door and laying a rifle across his knee, announced:

"The first man to touch that outlawed track will find out in one second if they have any street cars in hell."

## Happenings In and About Blowing Rock

### Interesting News of Past Week From Famous Resort Town

By RUPERT GILLET  
Blowing Rock, April 16.—Work on Blowing Rock's new, consolidated school building will start before the month ends, in the belief of Smith Bagshaw, county superintendent of education.

Events moved rapidly in this direction last week. The first was the approval by the state board of education of a loan of \$22,000 to build the school. Immediately after receiving word that the loan had been approved, the county board appointed J. T. Miller as trustee to sell the old school house at auction June 27.

Deeds conveying the site for the new school were then filed in the office of Mrs. Feary Hartley, registrar of deeds. Two of the tracts making up the site were donated, one by the town and the other by County Board and Mrs. N. C. Greene. One tract was bought from Mayor George M. Suddarth for \$2,200, two from Mrs. Mrs. George Reinhardt and Mrs. George Brown for \$1,200, three from Mrs. and Mrs. M. C. Church for \$2,200, and one from Mr. and Mrs. P. E. Ransom for \$100, making a total of \$6,000 paid for the site.

Early this week Superintendent Bagshaw went to Raleigh to obtain final approval on certain details relative to the building, and all was in readiness to begin work as soon as the old building is removed.

The Woman's Exchange, under the management of Miss Lena Reeves, was opened for business Wednesday with a large stock of novelties, gifts, baskets, pottery, handwork and other articles. It is in the same building with the Boh Noh Tea Room, which, under Mrs. Elliott Reed's direction, has been open for a week.

Blowing Rock hotel also opened this week with a number of guests registered.

It was announced at Green Park hotel that the orchestra of five pieces would arrive next week and dancing would be indulged in every evening thereafter at the hotel.

Last week end was the most lively so far of the season. Visitors from all parts of the State and from other States were here enjoying the scenery and the climate, except during the shower of Sunday afternoon.

Among the week end parties enjoying golf and other outdoor sports at Green Park hotel were R. E. Balfinger and four guests of Hickory, Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Moore of Mooreville, H. E. Whitaker and T. F. Martin of Kingsport, Tenn., P. H. Fuller, Jr. and six guests of Hickory, Mrs. C. C. Schroeder and son and Misses L. and M. Empey of Cleveland, O.

At Mayview Manor a Spartanburg party composed of Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Ligon, Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Lindsay and Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Avery, of Nashville, Tenn., enjoyed an evening of dancing Saturday.

The following party registered from Knoxville, Mrs. David G. Madden, Miss Kathleen Madden, K. A. Miller and Arthur Groves.

An Asheville party at the Manor waxed facetious and registered, as follows: Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Haynes, Asheville, Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Nettles, Robbin Ridge, Mr. and Mrs. P. D. Elbis, Spill Corn, and Mr. and Mrs. D. M. Buck, Upper Egypt.

A Bristol party was composed of Mrs. H. F. Lewis, Miss Margaret Gammon, Charles T. Alexander, Mr. and Mrs. George H. Bernhardt, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Wilson.

The following Charlotte party enjoyed the dancing at the Manor: S. V. Smith, H. G. Fuller, R. J. Smith and Robert Smith, Jr.

A Sanford party at the Martin Cottage was composed of Mrs. O. P. Makepeace, Edith, Jean and Henry Makepeace.

Others at the Martin Cottage over the week-end were Marion S. Crozier, Wilmington, Del., Anne E. Denison, Edgemont, N. Y., Dorothy D. Roney, Haldenfield, N. J., Ralph W. Miller, Charlotte, and W. C. Flury, High Point.

Mrs. A. M. Cletcher was called to Bowie Sunday by the death of her mother, Mrs. Adeline Howell, who died at the home of her son, Chales Howell, near Bowie. Mrs. Howell was more than eighty years of age. Besides Mrs. Cletcher, four sons and one other daughter survive.

Miss Carrie Miller returned Mon-

## WORTH WHILE CLUB HOSTESS TO THE A. S. N. S. FACULTY

One of the most delightful affairs of the season here thus far was the porch party given by Worth While Club at the home of Mrs. J. M. Metz, president of the club, Friday evening, honoring the president and faculty of the Appalachian State Normal.

At the corner of the vine-encircled porch, a huge punch bowl was placed and presided over by successive hostesses. At the head of the steps leading to the broad hallway a receiving line headed by Mrs. Moretz greeted the scores of guests who came and went in groups between the hour of seven and ten. Receiving with Mrs. Moretz were Mrs. D. J. Caldwell, Mrs. Clegg, Mrs. J. A. Williams, Mrs. Frank Moore, Mrs. Charles Stevenson, Mrs. E. L. Clay, Mrs. Edna Hunt and Mrs. A. Russ Smith.

Among the faculty members who called during the evening were Dr. B. B. Dougherty, Mrs. D. D. Dougherty, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Williams, Prof. and Mrs. J. G. Greer, J. M. Downum, Chasell Wilson, Mr. McDevitt, Mr. Andrews, Dr. Love, Dr. J. D. Rankin, Prof. and Mrs. J. T. C. Wright and a number of others with their friends and families.

The weather continues rainy and people are getting along slow with farm work.

A candy factory has been established on the waters of Rubes creek near the store of Charles Cornett. The proprietors are Charles Cornett and Marvin Milham.

Clay Eggers and family of Boone moved to Beaver Dam last week.

On July 3, there will be a Women's Missionary Union meeting at Forest Grove church. Each family is requested to bring lunch, which will be spread on the ground and served picnic style.

Mrs. Carrie Parthing, who has been ill for some time, is still confined to her bed most of the time.

Mrs. Susan Moody, who has been sick for several days, is slowly improving.

A new Sunday school has been organized on the head waters of Rubes Creek, and is being very largely attended.

## ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL

There will be a series of special services at St. Mary's Episcopal church, Blowing Rock, beginning Sunday, June 19th at 11 o'clock. There will be services each night at 8 o'clock. Rev. James P. Burkholder in charge, will conduct the services. The public is cordially invited.

day from Lenon, where she spent her vacation with her mother, Mrs. T. C. Robbins and friends. In Lenon Miss Miller was the guest of Misses Dorothy Pulliam and Mary Moore on a week-end party at Brown Mountain beach. Miss Moore and Miss Pulliam are expected to arrive here soon to visit Miss Miller before leaving for college. Miss Pulliam will enter college in Richmond, Va., in September, and Miss Moore will re-enter Corcoran Art School in Washington, D. C. Miss Miller will accompany her to Washington and will enter a business college there.

Mrs. C. S. Prevette and Miss Lena Reeves were Monday shoppers in Lenon.

The June meeting of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Rumpke Memorial Presbyterian church convened Friday at the home of Rev. and Mrs. Chas. C. McKeath at Shulls Mill. The ladies motored to Shulls Mill Friday afternoon and enjoyed a pleasant social hour and the refreshments prepared by Mrs. McKeath.

The following were guests at the Williams house for the week-end: Mr. and Mrs. P. D. Moore, Mount Holly, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Olinger, Mrs. Margaret Brian, Miss Katherine Brian and Mr. and Mrs. Griggs, all of Asheville, John F. Greer and John F. Greer, Jr., Helton, Ga.; Sol. C. Greer, Brevard; Mrs. C. T. Reeves, A. C. Reece and Charles Zehler of Winter Park, Fla.; Mrs. Howard Holsinger, Washington, D. C.; Miss Retic Williams, Durham, who will be cashier at Mayview Manor during the summer; Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Peil, Gastonia; Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Hines, Winston-Salem; Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Galloway, Greensboro.

Misses Anne and Josie Panella of Charlotte spent the week-end here visiting their brother, J. A. Panella, and Mrs. Panella.

## Cou Budget Now Being Prepared

### Law Res That It Be Submitted to County Commissioners First Monday in July

Estimates of a budget that will take care of the needs of Watauga county for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1928, have been made by the county officials, as required by the new county fiscal control act.

These preliminary budgets will show in detail what the departments spent last year, and an estimate of what they expect to spend next year.

Based on the figures submitted to him by the various officials, A. E. Smith, county treasurer, will prepare a budget estimate for the county and submit it to the county commissioners not later than the first day of July when the budget is passed. It will be for the year of the fiscal year of the county's income.

Under the new law all counties will use the uniform budget system and the budgets have been finally passed by the county commissioners. It is now known how much must be raised to meet all expenditures for the next year.

Upon submission of the budget estimate, at least 20 days before the adoption of the appropriation resolution, the budget estimate shall be filed in the office of the clerk of the board, where it shall remain for public inspection. The law further requires that a copy of the budget estimate be furnished to each newspaper published in the county.

The county officials must also cause to be published a summary of the budget estimate, showing at least the total appropriation recommended for each separate fund or function.

The responsibility for the carrying out of the budget system of handling county funds falls to the lot of the county accountant. No purchase is legal until countersigned by the accountant, who is personally responsible for the purchase or is approved, and personally liable for order approved without sufficient funds to take care of them.

The new system is designed to promote efficiency in the conduct of county affairs by setting up a definite amount of funds for each activity and by introducing a uniform system for all transactions, and by requiring each county to live within its income.

## CHANGE IN DATE OF REUNION OF 113TH FIELD ARTILLERY

Winston-Salem, June 15.—Major Robert M. Hanes announces a change of date for the reunion of the 113th Field Artillery, 20th Division, A. E. F., from August 12-13, to July 22-23, next. The change was made because of the change in dates for the annual encampment of the 113th Field Artillery of the National Guard, it being desired to have the World War veterans of the original 113th Field Artillery gather at Fort Bragg with the men and officers of the 113th Field Artillery of today.

The 113th, which was a unit of the famous 36th Division, was an almost 100 per cent War Hero outfit. It was organized in July, 1917 by Col. Albert L. Cox and commanded by him throughout the war. The regiment served with distinction through the St. Mihiel drive and the battle of the Argonne, winning high praise from general headquarters.

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ROMINGER HAPPENINGS  
Rominger, June 15.—Coy Rominger, who has been in the hospital at Banner Elk with a broken leg, returned home last Saturday.

A. T. Watson's little son, Duvalle, died last week, this being the cause of his death. Duvalle was a very bright boy, and his parents have the sympathy of the community in their bereavement.

Rev. Henry Olem preached at Rominger school-house last Sunday.

Lionel Ward made a business trip to Banner Elk, Blowing Rock, and other places last Saturday.

Miss Dore Freese, who is taking training for a nurse at General Hospital, Banner Elk, visited relatives here Saturday and Sunday.

Rev. L. C. Wilson spent Saturday night here with M. P. Trivett.

## LET'S HELP BEAUTIFY THE AMERICAN LEGION PARK

This is the last call for aid in improving the American Legion Park before the Fourth of July celebration. As veterans of the World War we wish to be clearly understood. We are not only servants of our own but of the nation and your personal servants during the great conflict. We realize that it's a busy world and all that, but it seems to appear by the facts of some of the good people that the men who fought for the great cause are being forgotten, and that the World War is fading away from the minds of the people.

It is our hope that you will help us to beautify the park by contributing to the fund for the purchase of flowers for the park.

We are not asking for any thing personally. But we do ask for a really patriotic man. Watauga county will meet us in the park on Friday night at 8 o'clock.

It makes no difference if you did not serve in the army. We worked Friday, June 10, with 20 veterans present and their patriotic friends who were not service men, namely, Messrs. W. B. Greer, A. W. Smith and Gordon Winkler. Surely we have more than three men in Watauga county who are grateful enough to lend us one day's work.

You have heard of the Gen. of the Ocean, but pay the American Legion Park a visit and convince yourself that it is not only the gem of Watauga county but of western Carolina.

Former soldier boys who worked last Friday were: Spencer Miller, J. E. Combs, Sam Horton, Lionel Ward, Deway Rominger, R. H. Hodges, L. L. Bingham, J. C. McConnell, S. C. Phillips, Earn Hodges, Stewart Brown, Grady Parthing, Elbert Vaughn, Byron Grogan, Chas. Roy and L. S. Isaacs.

Mr. Lionel Ward of Beech Creek has promised to bring 25 men from his section, while John Combs of Mabel will bring a truck carrying men from the Tennessee line this way and return them to their homes after the day's work at his own expense.

The Ladies Auxiliary will again furnish the workers with dinner and all who are present next Friday will be given a free ticket to the Fiddlers' Convention, Friday night. Show us your appreciation of the grand and free country for which we fought.

L. S. ISAACS,  
Watauga Post, American Legion.

## VALLE CRUCIS NEWS

Valle Crucis, June 15.—Miss Mabel J. Towser, who has been at home for a couple of months, left last week for a trip to New York and Boston before starting for the Pacific coast to embark for the Philippines. Miss Townsend will take up mission hospital work at Manila.

Mrs. J. H. Thomas has returned from a two weeks' stay in the hospital at Boone.

Mr. Norman Smith returned from Reisterstown, Md., on Sunday to spend the summer with his wife, Mrs. C. D. Taylor.

Miss W. W. Mast spent Saturday and Sunday in Boone with Mr. and Mrs. Howard Mast.

George Brain and family visited his mother, Mrs. Jim Baird, on Sunday. Mrs. Baird is in very poor health.

Miss Myrtle Grubb has returned to Wake Forest after spending two weeks at his home here.

The Clark brothers who have recently completed Mrs. W. H. Warden's new home have begun work on a summer home for Mrs. Nannie Smith near Mr. C. D. Taylor.

## MAINEY HAPPENINGS

Mainey, June 15.—Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Brennan celebrated the marriage of their only son, George, to Miss M. A. Taylor, Tuesday evening.

## Plans Perfected for Grand Celebration

### Airplane Flight, Speaker, Outdoor Sports, Fireworks, Etc., an Everything

Watauga Post No. 130, American Legion, has completed plans for the grand Fourth of July celebration to be held in Boone in which seven counties will participate: Ashe, Wilkes, Caldwell, Avery, Watauga, and Carter, and Johnston counties, Tenn. Next Friday has been officially set as a general assembly day for the party as well as the Legion Park after which all will be ready for the grand celebration. Plans are expected to be fixed to the satisfaction of all of the members and it will be necessary for the Legislature to provide for the Legislature.

A picnic style dinner will be served, such as only the ladies of counties like Watauga can prepare. Everyone is asked to contribute some of their good food for the occasion and doubtless the supply will be ample with more than the Biblical seven baskets of fragments left.

The afternoon is to be devoted mostly to field sports, featured by a baseball game between the champion players of Ashe and those of Watauga county. Airplane flights will be made throughout the day, those wanting to witness the city from "way up" may be gratified.

An elaborate fireworks display will be given at 8:30 p. m., followed by street dancing. An impressive war film, "Los at the Front," will be run continuously at the Pastime Theater from 7 a. m. to midnight.

There will be something going on all day to please everyone, regardless of taste and it is expected that the crowds will be the largest ever gathered at a celebration in this section of the state.

NEWS OF COVE CREEK SECTION  
Sugar Grove, June 15.—Miss Anne Sherwood, popular teacher in the elementary schools for the past seven years, spent a few days with her parents last week. She will teach in the Asheville Normal during the summer.

David Mast is home for the summer vacation. He graduated from the State University June 1, receiving the degree of Bachelor of Arts.

Mrs. S. F. Horton spent last week with a party of friends in Little Switzerland.

Children's Day was observed at Benson Chapel on last Sunday. The pastor, Rev. R. A. Taylor, delivered a very fine sermon on the influence of child prayer in the world. Dinner was served on the ground and in the afternoon the children rendered a very interesting program.

Mrs. Bazes and two children of Wilmington are spending a few days visiting her sister, Mrs. James Mast.

Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Vick and Mrs. Edwin Gordon of South Hill, Va., spent the week-end with Mr. and Mrs. S. F. Horton.

Prof. Charles J. Givens was a week-end visitor in the community. He was en route to Chabot Hall to prepare summer school.

The Fourth League of Henson Chapel celebrated its members at a social on Saturday night. The Home Ladies has been invited to conduct a program on Wednesday, July 20, after which refreshments will be served by the Henson Chapel ladies.

Mrs. Bantz of Knoxville, formerly Mrs. Alay Swain was a visitor with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Brock Swift last week.

The validity of the 1927 legislative county boards act was definitely established Friday when the state supreme court found that its passage in the house and senate had been in accordance with constitutional requirement. Doubt as to the validity of the enactment was raised by C. B. Masher, the state's New York bond attorney, who appeared for the plaintiff in the test case that presented the matter to the supreme court for decision. The case was that of C. D. Frazier vs. the Guilford county board of commissioners.