

# WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

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

VOL. XXVIII, NO. 22

BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA.

THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 1927

PRICE FIVE CENTS

## Senator E. E. Butler Passes Suddenly

Found Dead in Bed at Mountain City Home Tuesday Morning; Was Leader in East Tennessee

Senator E. E. Butler of Mountain City, one of the most prominent citizens and statesmen of east Tennessee, was found dead in bed at his home Tuesday morning. Mr. Butler was in his usual good health Monday, the editor of The Democrat having been in Mountain City on that day to see him. His death came as a great shock to his many friends throughout this part of North Carolina.

Mr. Butler had practiced law in the Tennessee courts for the past thirty-five years and controlled more of the general practice of his part of the state than any other man. He had represented his people in the state senate since 1911, and against overwhelming political odds, he nearly always succeeded in getting measures through the legislative mills that were of benefit to his people, regardless of political affiliations. A monument to Senator Butler is the link of road connecting Mountain City with the Boone Trail at the state line near Zionville. Only through his untiring efforts with the lawmakers at Nashville did this modern highway take the place of the ox-cart trail of other years. Trip after trip did he make to his state capital, at his own expense and never discouraged. He lived to see his dream realized—a first class outlet from Johnson county into North Carolina. Although of different political creeds, the late senator numbered Governor Austin Peay as one of his closest personal friends.

Senator Butler decidedly was the outstanding figure of his home town and native county. A broad-minded, kindly gentleman of the old school is gone and his followers have been caused to mourn.

Deceased was a brother of Dr. W. Roy Butler and uncle of Mrs. J. A. Sprules of Boone. He is survived by a wife and three children. Funeral services will be held today and interment will be in the cemetery near the home.

## PRESIDENT KEPT BUSY

Rapid City, S. D., June 21.—New western sights and plans for others were laid before President Coolidge today as he reviewed in picture-show surroundings the national guard encampment near here after a morning at his office, and later considered arrangements to attend a rodeo in Red Cloud, S. D., in July.

The day also brought a remainder of the naval armaments conference in Geneva with a message to the President from the delegates, expressing hope for successful results from the parity which opened Monday.

The message was transmitted here by Secretary Kellogg to whom it was sent by Hugh Wilson, minister to Switzerland and secretary general of the conference. It praised the "humane and wise initiative" of the President in convening the conference in which Great Britain and Japan are meeting with this country.

## AFTER NEGRO IN BURKE

Morganton, June 21.—With the Morganton military company of 100 or more men on duty, it is estimated that at least 2,000 men, citizens of this city and Burke county late tonight were scouring the countryside around Morganton and to the eastward in search of a tall yellow negro named Broadus Miller, who is believed to have made a brutal attack upon a young white girl in the outskirts of town about 5:30 o'clock.

The girl is in Grace hospital here in a desperate condition, her skull fractured, and the attending physician said late tonight that she had hardly a chance to recover.

Residents here tonight said they had never seen the community in such a state of excitement as that now prevailing.

Mr. R. L. Clay, who with two of his little children and Miss Maude Reese, who makes her home with the Clays, has returned from Texas—"Down on the Rio Grande," where he spent a month's vacation on his little ranch which he bought there early in the spring. Mr. Clay is delighted with the country—thinks there is none other like it for fertility, climate, etc.

The short skirts flappers wear have made American men handsome—or perhaps "good looking" would express it better.

## FIDDLERS' CONVENTION SUCCESSFUL AFFAIR

Despite the steady downpour of rain throughout Watauga Friday and Saturday and the consequently almost impassable condition of some of the cross-country roads, large crowds were in attendance at the fiddlers' convention given by the American Legion and about 75 musicians and dancers played to practically capacity houses both at the Pastime theater and the courthouse on both nights. The renditions were varied, old-time and modern and the audiences joined heartily in the genuine spirit of good fellowship characteristic of the days of yesteryear.

The American Legion received a little more than seven hundred dollars from the entertainments, which when expenses are paid, will be applied to the cost of the Fourth of July celebration. One hundred and forty dollars were given in cash prizes and progressive business men of the city donated special prizes, consisting of useful merchandise.

## The Winners

The major prize, \$50, to the band coming the longest distance also a tank of gasoline donated by the Taylor Motor Company, were won by the Mooresville musicians, who proved to be one of the best drawing cards of the occasion. The Appalachian band, made up mostly of Boone folks, won the \$20 offered as second, while third and fourth prizes of \$10 and \$5 were awarded Cook and Campbell bands, respectively.

Mr. Alderman, violinist of the famous "Hill Billies," Keith vaudeville player, was one of the stars of the ball, winning first money in the fiddlers' contest. He came without cost to the Legion, after failure to come to terms with his organization. He brought with him a miniature guitar player, about ten years old, who dressed in spotless sailor man garb and labeled "Spark Plug" rivalled the older heads with his selections. Not satisfied altogether with his solo parts, Sparky got busy and gathered up a few other musicians, forming "Spark Plug's Jazz Band." The popularity of this company was best shown by the numerous encores. But, to get back to the first of the page-graph, Mr. Ed Williams of Mooresville and Carter Farthing of Watauga, won second and third prizes in the fiddlers' contest. Spark Plug took first cash with his guitar, \$10, while F. P. Wilson and Edna Ward received \$5 and \$2, respectively. The banjoists were Clarence Greene, Ralph Story and Nile Cook who received prizes of \$5, \$3 and \$1 in the order named.

Miss Nell Smith of Boone won \$5 as the best Charleston dancer. Miss Ora Isaacs being the recipient of the \$2 offered as second prize. Richard Norris and Miss Ollie Jean Coffey were adjudged the best buck dancers. Burkett & Norris gave a \$3 shirt to the ugliest musician, Amos Ward being the claimant. J. C. McConnell gave a pair of silk suspenders to the oldest buck dancer, Hard Thomas was the ancient one. Miss Edna Ward won from L. S. Isaacs a pair of silk hose as the best lady guitar player. "Spark Plug" won a handsome tie as the youngest contestant at the hands of Eggers-Ashley Co.

The contestants for the prizes consisted of 13 bands, 10 guitar players, 19 fiddlers, seven banjoists, seven buck dancers and five Charleston dancers. Many musicians did not compete.

**TEXT BOOK COMMISSION IN SESSION HERE TUESDAY**

The state text book commission held a session at the Daniel Boone hotel yesterday. Members of the commission present were: A. E. Akers, chairman, Roanoke Rapids; Miss Ruth Gunter, secretary, Sanford; R. G. Fitzgerald, Greensboro; B. L. Smith, Spindale; Miss Ann Hofford, Raleigh; Miss Elsie McNary, Greensboro. C. C. Hayworth was the only member absent.

B. L. Smith is a member of the faculty of the Appalachian State Normal, which perhaps accounts for the session of the commission here. Only routine business came before the meeting, the chief concern of the assembly being the course of study for elementary schools.

## Making a Race of It

"The only reason I am behind in my studies," said Oscar Whimple, "is so that I can pursue them better."

## Happenings In and About Blowing Rock

Interesting News of Past Week From Famous Resort Town

By RUPERT CILLETT

Blowing Rock, June 23.—Roby Duncan and Roosevelt Nichols came up from North Wilkesboro with ten gallons of alleged liquor, which they hoped to sell to wealthy tourists. Steering clear of Boone, where Policeman Garland wears a bright new uniform with shiny buttons, they came to Blowing Rock, where Chief of Police L. E. Story wears ordinary civies.

Unwittingly, they offered some of their ten gallons to Story, whereupon, in five minutes they found themselves and their ten gallons before Mayor George Soderth, who bound them over to superior court and sent them to the county jail at Boone.

James H. Hanna of Charlotte was here last week preparing for an early opening of his summer gift shop here. He will carry a line of oriental wares and novelties.

Charles Ward, new policeman for Green Park, has begun his beat in that district. He was appointed by the town council at its last meeting. Chief of Police L. E. Story will continue to patrol the main part of the village.

Special services are being held at 8 o'clock every night this week at the Church of St. Mary of the Hills here. Rev. James P. Burke, rector, conducting the services. Large congregations are attending.

Thirty days' grace has been granted for the payment of town taxes. It has been announced by A. M. Critcher, town tax collector.

This is in line with the policy of Sheriff L. M. Farthing, who has granted an additional thirty days for the payment of county taxes. Collections are coming in slowly, the collectors say, but with the lamb and sheep shearing season at hand, Sheriff Farthing said, the farmers could have more ready money for their taxes.

Engineers for the Southern Bell Telephone company have completed the toll line from Lenoir to Blowing Rock and have started construction of the line from Blowing Rock to Boone. It is expected that the Blowing Rock exchange will be in operation within a short time, and that connections may be had with Boone as soon as that line is completed.

Last week Cyrus C. Babb, consulting engineer of Hickory, was here surveying the curb lines so that engineers would know where to place the poles leading to the exchange on Boone street.

Next Monday, Blowing Rock's old school house will be sold at auction by J. T. Miller, trustee for the county board of education. It will be immediately removed from the grounds, and work on the new building will be started at once.

Smith Hagaman, county superintendent of education, returned last week from Raleigh, where he obtained final approval of the last details of the plans for this school, as well as for the new Cove Creek high school.

The board is now engaged in finishing the plans for the two buildings. A contract is expected to be let within the next few days.

Last week-end was not so lively in Blowing Rock, apparently because prospective visitors, seeing the rain of Saturday and unable to foresee the beautiful Sunday that followed, did not care to risk a rainy week-end in the mountains.

For all that, the Youablossee trail was crowded with cars going to and from the Grandfather, Blowing Rock streets Sunday had a traffic comparable to that of cities, and McRae's place and Linville had visitors throughout the day.

Two week-end parties stopped at the Martin Cottage. One was composed of Mrs. Frances A. Ewell and Mrs. D. M. Burnett of Jacksonville, Fla., and the other of Ethelyn Dewey, J. R. Traver and Marjorie Mendenhall of Greensboro.

At Mayview Manor two couples formed a lively party. They were Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Ballard of Davenport, Iowa, and Mr. and Mrs. John J. Ballard of Minneapolis, Minn.

A Virginia party was composed of

(Continued on Page Five)

## Count Sunday School Convention

Will Be Held at Stony Fork Baptist Church Saturday and Sunday, July 2 and 3

According to information from officers of the Watauga County Sunday School Association, all indications point to a record-breaking attendance at the annual convention which is to be held on Saturday and Sunday, July 2 and 3. The convention will be held with the Baptist church on Stony Fork. The opening session will be held at 8 o'clock Saturday night.

The officers in charge of the plans and program for the convention have announced that the program has been prepared with the idea of having "a convention for the discussion of practical Sunday School plans and problems," the plan being to have something in the convention that will help workers in all departments of the Sunday school.

Among the prominent speakers on the program will be Mr. D. W. Sims, Raleigh, general superintendent of the North Carolina Sunday School Association, and Mr. W. J. Vaughan, of Ashland, Ky., former field secretary of the Kentucky Sunday School Association. During the convention these workers will discuss various phases of Sunday school work.

As has been previously announced, a pennant will be presented to the Sunday school having in the convention the largest number of representatives, sixteen years of age and over, according to the number of miles traveled from a particular church to the church with which the convention is held. The contest is open to all Sunday schools in the county, except the Sunday school at which the convention is held, and others within one mile. The pennant will be presented at the close of the session on Sunday afternoon.

The full program for the convention is as follows:

**Sunday Night, July 2**  
8:00—Devotional, E. N. Hahn.  
8:15—Suggestions to Sunday School Workers, D. W. Sims.  
8:45—Song.  
Record of attendance.  
8:55—The Sunday School That Measures Up, W. J. Vaughan.  
9:25—Announcements.  
9:50—Adjourn.

**Sunday Morning, July 3**  
10:30—Devotional, E. N. Hahn.  
10:45—The Organized Adult Class Movement, W. J. Vaughan.  
11:15—Business session; Reports of county and township officers; appointment of committees; record of attendance.  
11:35—Our Expanding Program, D. W. Sims.  
12:10—Offering for support of county and state Sunday school associations.

12:25—Announcements.  
12:30—Adjourn.  
Dinner at the church. Everybody come and bring basket.  
**Sunday Afternoon**  
2:00—Devotional, J. B. Steere.  
2:10—The Home and the Sunday School Working Together, Prof. J. D. Rankin.  
2:30—The Little Sunday School in the County, W. J. Vaughan.  
3:00—Song.  
3:05—The Workers' Council at Work, D. W. Sims.  
3:35—Discussion and questions. Opportunity for the presentation and discussion of special Sunday school problems.

3:50—Business session; Reports of committees and election of officers; place of next meeting; presentation of attendance pennant.  
4:00—Adjourn.  
**Sunday Night**  
8:00—Devotional, E. N. Hahn.  
8:15—Plans for Increasing Attendance, D. W. Sims.  
8:45—Song.  
8:55—The Invested Life, W. J. Vaughan.  
9:30—Adjourn.

At the close of the session on Sunday afternoon a felt pennant, 18 by 36 inches, will be presented to the Sunday school which has had in the convention the largest number of representatives, 16 years of age and over, according to the number of miles traveled.

**History of State Organization**  
Below are given some interesting facts relative to the growth and work of the North Carolina Sunday School association as given out by the state organization, of which J. B. Ivey, of Charlotte, is president.

A county convention with an average attendance of 241, was held in each of the 100 counties in the state

## CITIZENS AID IN WORK ON AMERICAN LEGION PARK

About one hundred citizens of Boone and the county at large turned out last Friday with picks, shovels, axes and other implements and spent a busy half day on the American Legion park. The afternoon work was stopped by the rain. However, many stumps and unsightly trees were removed and much in the way of beautifying the park was accomplished. Had the weather permitted the park would have been practically cleaned up during the day. Dinner was served and at night the workers enjoyed the fiddlers' convention.

The Legion is especially grateful to W. H. Grage who so kindly contributed the lumber of the building of the long tables on which will be spread the feast for the Fourth. J. A. Sprules loaned a truck for the day and the Taylor Motor Company's tractor proved useful to the workers.

## UNCLE SAM WILL NOT ABANDON LARGE CRUISERS

Geneva, June 21.—Never will the United States be forced into building small size cruisers, unsuitable for the needs of her national defense—that is understood, is the answer which the American delegates will make to the British proposal at the Tripartite naval conference for the eventual abolition of the 10,000-ton cruisers authorized by the Washington treaties. The close of the second day of the conference has permitted the experts to reaffirm their earlier judgment that the three plans presented—the American, British and Japanese—are so divergent as to be utterly irreconcilable and are certain to make a treaty impossible unless some one recedes from his original position.

## ZIONVILLE HAPPENINGS

Zionville, June 22.—Mrs. Verdie Thomas and daughter, Geneva, of Richmond, Va., are visiting Mrs. Thomas' mother, Mr. Reuben Potter, Chas. Lewis returned to his home in Cincinnati, Ohio, last week. Mrs. Isaacs will remain here with relatives during the summer months. Graydon P. Eggers, of Elizabethton, Tenn., was a visitor in Zionville during the past week. G. C. Greer spent the week-end with homefolks.

M. W. and Chas. Eller of Butler, Tenn., were in the village on business last week.

Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Belick and children of Tenn. were in the village Monday en route to their home after spending a few days in Tennessee.

Mrs. Mary Younce is very ill at this time.

Mrs. W. N. Thomas and daughters, Ruth and Mildred, spent last Thursday in Mountain City.

## FORD SECRETIVE

New York, June 21.—Edsel Ford, president of the Ford Motor Company, today issued a statement in which he declared that it was impossible at this time for any one to discuss with accuracy new models of automobiles to be manufactured by his company in the near future.

No statement as to details of the new cars has been made, he said.

In the convention year which closed March 31, last, five hundred and sixty-two township conventions and institutes were held during the last convention year. The holding of these 532 meetings, at a total cost of \$8,000,000, more than were held in any previous year.

The state association reached directly through the state workers and indirectly through the county and township organizations, workers from more than two-thirds of the Sunday Schools in the state during the past convention year.

The number of officers in county and township Sunday school associations in the state has increased from 55 in 1921 to 1,810 on March 31, 1927.

Records from the state convention held in Burlington April 26-28, last, show that 1,491 people registered, and approximately 200 others attended who did not register. Of those who registered 912 were from out of town and 579 lived in Burlington.

Another service rendered is the maintaining of a free circulating library of the most up-to-date books on all departments of Sunday school work. The books are for the free use of Sunday school workers of all denominations throughout the state. Hundreds of workers avail themselves of this service.

## Watauga to Receive \$36,366 From State

County's Share in Equalization Fund More Than Doubled; Will Reduce Levy for School Purposes

Watauga county will receive the sum of \$36,366 from the state board of equalization's \$3,250,900 public school equalization fund, according to announcement made in Raleigh last week. County Superintendent Hagaman believes this will reduce the school levy in the county about 20 per cent, or from 70 to 50 cents on the \$100.

The taxpayers of Watauga, as in the other 89 counties helped in the state, will be greatly pleased with this reduction of the tax burden. It cost \$95,680.43 to operate the school system in Watauga during the past year. Of this approximately \$63,577 was raised by the county-wide tax levy; about \$17,700 was supplied out of the state equalization fund and nearly \$10,000 was raised by special tax in several of the districts.

The school budget for 1925-26 was \$98,288.13, or \$4,607.70 more than that of the past year. The increase is the fund from the state of from \$17,700 to \$36,366, will, of course, reduce the county tax levy considerably, notwithstanding the fact that several new school buildings will be constructed this year.

## BAPTIST WOMEN TO MEET AT LAUREL SPRINGS JUNE 26

The quarterly meeting of the Women's Missionary Union of the Three Forks Baptist Association will be held at Laurel Springs church on Sunday afternoon, June 26, at 2 o'clock.

The following program will be carried out:

Devotional exercises, Mrs. W. Y. Farthing.  
Reading, Mrs. Fawn Watson.  
Prayer, and its Relation to the Missionary Enterprise, Mrs. D. F. Heston.  
Bible Study, Mrs. P. A. Hicks.  
Stewardship, Mrs. D. D. Dougherty.  
Suggestions from leaders of departments:

(a) Mission Study, Mrs. J. D. Brown.  
(b) Personal Service, Mrs. Smith Hagaman.  
(c) Young Peoples' Work, Mrs. J. D. Ridge.  
Eight Reasons and an Invitation, Mrs. Lee Swift.

All women in the association, whether they are members of societies or not are cordially invited to attend this meeting.

Mrs. L. G. Greer, Superintendent.

## LOCAL PEOPLE ATTEND REUNION AT MORGANTON

Mr. and Mrs. E. N. Hahn, Margaret, Elizabeth and Edwin Hahn, of Boone, Mr. and Mrs. T. P. Kincaid, Miss Lizzie Kincaid, Mrs. S. E. Paetz, Miss Mary Paetz, Mrs. W. L. Minsh and Mrs. P. J. Johnson attended a reunion of the Kincaid family held at the home of Mr. Kenzie Kincaid at Morganton Friday. Those attending carried well filled baskets, and the sumptuous dinner was enjoyed picnic fashion. In the afternoon everybody returned to their homes after a most pleasant day—Lanier News-Topic, June 20.

## HAYES AGAIN HEADS CAROLINA EPWORTH LEAGUE

Lake Junaluska, June 21.—Lake Junaluska, seat of the Methodist Southern Assembly, has been selected as the permanent meeting for the annual Western North Carolina Epworth League assembly.

Rev. L. B. Hayes, of Winston-Salem, was re-elected as president of the organization at Tuesday's session.

## MATNEY MATTERS

Matney, June 22.—On Saturday the children of Mr. J. C. Hubbard gave him a surprise birthday dinner. Mr. Hubbard is seventy-three years old.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Church of Elizabethton, Tenn., spent the week-end with Mrs. Church's brother, Mr. Sherman Baird.

Mr. Elbert Cannon of Burnsville was here Sunday.

Mrs. Eli Smith and Miss Alice Baird visited Mrs. Florence B. Phillips on Cove Creek Saturday and Sunday.

Mrs. Wilma Pressnell, who is staying on Cove Creek, spent the week-end at her home here.