

# WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

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

VOL. XXXVIII, NO. 27

BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, JULY 28, 1927

PRICE FIVE CENTS

## Beginning of Methodism in Watauga County

Historic Henson's Chapel Organized About 1811 in Home of Golsen Davis

(Rupert Gillett in Charlotte Observer.)

Golsen Davis was so ugly that his wife only once admitted he was handsome. Mrs. Davis was the first Methodist in Watauga county, back in 1810 or 1811, when as Elizabeth Whitlow she came from Tennessee and was snowbound on Brushy Fork.

There she met Golsen Davis, who wooed her without success, but when the snow melted and she returned to Tennessee, Davis followed her. In spite of his uncomely appearance, his persistence won, and Elizabeth Whitlow became Mrs. Golsen Davis and accompanied her husband back to Cove Creek.

About the same time, a Methodist preacher named Greer began preaching in Watauga county—the first Methodist meetings ever held here—and he worked up such spirituality that people came from the hollows far and near to hear him preach. At first, he was allowed to use the Baptist church, but soon the Baptists objected to his presence and told him that he must hold his meetings elsewhere. Gathering his little flock about him, the Rev. Greer asked if any would donate a room in his house for use as a church.

Golsen Davis arose and offered his house, and it was accepted. It was then that Mrs. Davis, the devout Methodist, said that her homely husband looked pretty. Meetings were held thereafter in the Davis house, and that was the beginning of Henson's chapel, oldest Methodist church in Watauga county and one of the oldest in western North Carolina.

The story of Golsen Davis and his wife was recalled by aged citizens of the Cove Creek section, particularly by Enoch Swift, aged Confederate veteran, when the campaign was begun to raise funds to complete the new church, which has been under construction for more than a year. Work is now suspended because of lack of money, but it is hoped that it can soon be resumed.

Although Henson's Chapel really began with the meetings in the Davis home, formal organization did not take place until 1858, when the following members: George M. Bingham, John Combs, Thomas Harbin and Mrs. Harbin, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Henson, George Moody, Mrs. Eli Farmer and Mr. and Mrs. Golsen Davis.

The little meeting house, available was a little one-room school house which stood a few feet to the east of the present church building. Mr. Swift says that Highway No. 60 now runs exactly through the center of the plot on which the school house stood.

For 10 years the services were conducted in this school house, but by whom it is uncertain. Elder Miles, of Tennessee, is believed to have been the second Methodist preacher in Watauga county, but what became of Greer no one knows, and there is no historical record for reference. Other early preachers at the school house were named Joshua Cole, Tillet, Blackburn and Martin.

Just after the close of the Civil war, Mrs. Charles Henson donated a lot on which to build a church. The building was erected in 1868, and it was called Henson's Chapel in honor of the donor of the land. The first preacher in the new church, according to the memories of Mr. and Mrs. Swift, was a man named Cooper, and he was followed by one Spencer.

Seventeen years later, the old church was torn down, and a new one was erected on the same plot of ground. It, too, bore the name Henson's Chapel, and the donor, Mrs. Henson, worshipped in it also until her death at the age of 100.

This new church seated only 150 persons, but it has been in use continually for nearly 40 years since its construction. Rev. R. A. Taylor, the present pastor, says he has seen more than 300 persons come to the services, and, as only 150 could be seated, the others crowded as near the windows as they could in order to hear the pastor from the outside. On special occasions, like the visit of Bishop Mouzon last week when the district conference was in session at the church, the building would hold only a fraction of those who came from the surrounding country to attend the services.

(Continued on Page Five)

## LEGEND NAMED BLOWING ROCK

Beautiful Indian Story Tells of the Naming of Watauga's Most Scenic Wonder; Knoxville Lady's Volume Tells of Incident

By J. C. FLETCHER

"Wauhonhase," an Indian legend of Blowing Rock is the title of a publication of which Mrs. Ada Campbell Larew of Knoxville, is the author. The scene of this legend is located two miles from the village of Blowing Rock. In the preface to the beautifully and handsomely illustrated verse is told the legend of the tragic fate of the beautiful Indian maiden Wauhonhase, daughter of a Chickasaw chieftain, and her Cherokee lover.

"Then to craggy cliff—a lovely sight, Where the wind blows day and night."

Back in the days when traveling through the mountains of North Carolina was done by coach and covered wagon, the author states that she had a remarkably interesting experience. To explore the wilds, to study the beauty of the glorious mountain scenery, to come in close contact with the natives and to wander in a terrestrial paradise that had been the haunts in bygone days of the Indian, was a dream fulfilled. In the land of towering peaks, winds the Yonahlossee Road from which road leads to the crest of Blowing Rock, and this road traverses a land of surpassing grandeur. Here are many waterfalls, eventually tributaries to a distant sea. Here the pine and balsam perfume the air with sweeter fragrance than oriental incense. Here the calyx carpet the loamy earth in bronze and green and dark ravines produce the loveliest wild flowers. Here is the land of Indian legends and myths.

Nestling upon an elevation which enables the traveler to view one of the grandest mountain kingdoms in all the world, nothing could be more inspiring than this scenic grandeur. No wonder the Indian was inspired to believe in a supreme Being, one whom they worshipped in a faith that was strangely beautiful. No wonder the author was inspired to write of the legend—forgotten almost in the passage of time. No wonder the mountaineer is the most deeply religious of all peoples—for who could look on the mighty works of nature and doubt for one moment the existence of a supreme Being?

As the story goes, she was sitting upon a great rock gazing into space where the profile of Grandfather Mountain towers to the sky, when she was approached by a half-breed Indian who had a basket of fragrant balsam to sell. It was he who recited the legend of the rock, a legend which will ever live in the memory of his people, so long as a remnant of them is left.

When the white man entered the wilderness of North Carolina and Tennessee, invading the happy hunting ground of the Indian, what more natural than that he should be irritated, resentful and suspicious. Aristocrats of all the tribes were the Cherokees. Perhaps the most warlike were the Chickasaws. A Chickasaw chieftain had a beautiful daughter, so runs the legend, and in fear of the white man's admiration of his beautiful Wauhonhase, he journeyed far from the plains to the mountain top—Blowing Rock—with Wauhonhase and her mother; left them and returned to his tribe. One day a Cherokee brave wandered into the wilderness below, and from a lofty crag was espied by the lonely maiden, and in innocent play she shot an arrow in his direction. The arrow shot by the maiden whom he had also seen, figuratively pierced his heart, and that night he appeared before her wigwam and in song, told of roving far from home and tribe in search of a lovely bride.

"Then the Cherokee's ardent wooing, His sweet and ardent wooing, With the wind and distant thunder, And a spirit to forever wander, They bounded gaily o'er rock and rill, Never weary, never still, Then to Craggy Cliff—a lovely sight, Where the wind blows day and night."

But even lovers' trysts, lovers' declarations of undying love, must sometimes be rudely interrupted, so it was with the Indian maiden and her warrior lover, for one day he saw the

## Club Members Plan To Beautify Cemetery

Play Be Given Tomorrow Night for Purpose of Raising Funds for Worthy Cause

Tomorrow evening the ladies of the Worth While Club will present the second local talent play of the season. The title of the drama is "Mrs. and Mr. Polly Tickle" and is given under the supervision of the Wayne P. Sewell Producing Company, of Atlanta, and under the personal direction of Miss Hazel Phillips, who has been here working up the cast for several days.

The money derived from these performances supplements a savings deposit of the club and when enough has been secured will be used in a lump to improve and beautify the cemetery in the eastern part of town. No more needed improvement could be made at the present time and the club members respectfully ask for the co-operation of the people as no money is being asked except for civic betterment.

The business men of the town have contributed advertisements enough to make possible a half page ad in this paper which will also give an idea of the entertainment tomorrow evening.

## FLOYD WARD TO OCCUPY NEW BUILDING AT ELIZABETHTON

The following from the Elizabethton (Tenn.) Star, will be of interest locally:

J. Frank Spires announced at his office Monday that construction work was ready to be started on a new milk depot and pasteurizing plant at the intersection of Elk avenue and "E" street. The building which was planned by Mr. Spires will occupy the triangular lot at that location fronting 98 feet on E street and 82 feet on Elk avenue. Construction will be of brick and stone, one story high and work will be carried out on a daily basis by Walter Grindstaff.

Mr. Spires stated that the building would be occupied by Mr. Floyd Ward and associates. Mr. Ward is from Boone, N. C. Aside from pasteurizing milk and maintaining a before breakfast delivery service the new company will manufacture and sell ice cream. The estimated cost of the structure with equipment is somewhere in the neighborhood of \$10,000.

Rapid City, S. D., July 22.—Senator Smoot, of Utah, one of the administration leaders, came to the summer White House yesterday to renew his appeal to President Coolidge for a special session of congress in the fall. A recommendation made by Secretary Hoover that the federal government give immediate relief in the Mississippi flood situation makes the special session imperative, in the opinion of Senator Smoot. In order to give this relief and to get government finances on a better basis the Utah senator believed the administration would do well to have congress meet early and pass the deficiency appropriation bill which was lost in the senate filibuster at the close of the last session. That bill carries a large amount of funds to meet emergency expenses of the government and these funds, he thinks, would be needed if immediate relief was to be extended to the flood area.

A small blaze around a defective flue in the summer home here of C. C. Laughner of St. Petersburg, Fla., called out the Blowing Rock fire truck for the first time this summer. The blaze was quickly extinguished after doing damage estimated at \$100.

The third handicap golf tournament on the Green Park-Norwood course here was won Sunday by Dr. Wallace W. Abernethy of Charlotte, with a gross score of 75, less a handicap of 9, making a net score of 66. This is the best score made so far in any of the tournaments. J. Wagner of Statesville, who won the second tournament, came off second best this time with a gross of 74, handicap 5, and net 69.

J. W. Ballinger of Hickory and Givens Harper of Hickory, tied for third place. The former's gross score was 78, handicap 8, net 70. Mr. Harper's gross was 88, handicap 18, net 70.

With a good road all the way from Lenoir to Blowing Rock, week-end visitors here increased strikingly Saturday and Sunday. Nearly all of the hotels were filled, and many of the rooming houses had all their rooms taken.

Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Sloan and Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Dalton formed a party of four over the week-end at Mayview Manor.

One of the largest parties of the week-end which enjoyed Saturday night's dance at the Manor was composed of Mrs. Louis M. Grant of Greenwich, Conn., Miss Jessie L. Marley, Miss Elizabeth Grant of Yonkers, N. Y., Miss Alice Grant, Barrett Grant and Madame Epcie, all

## NEWS OF THE WEEK AT BLOWING ROCK

Dr. Vance Heard by Throng at Presbyterian Church; To Stage Benefit Fiddlers' Contest; New Telephone Line Has Good Business

By RUPERT GILLETT

Blowing Rock, July 27.—"It is difficult to make an infidel of a mountaineer, because he has so many voices around him speaking of the infinite," said Dr. James I. Vance of Nashville, Tenn., Sunday in a sermon before a summer audience that packed Rimple Memorial Presbyterian church to the doors.

"Climb to the top of Grandfather Mountain," he continued, "and look at the succession of blue peaks until they disappear in the dim distance, and you will understand the spiritual appeal of the mountains; you will understand why mountaineers play such an important part in Biblical literature, and why the old Israelites went for inspiration to the tops of tall mountains."

Dr. Vance, whose sermons here during the summer always draw large crowds, will preach again next Sunday.

B. K. Jenkins of Blowing Rock, was on a tour of Western North Carolina this week seeking entries to the fiddlers' convention which will be held here August 5 and 6 under the auspices of the Blowing Rock fire department.

Mr. Jenkins will visit all of the famous dancers, bands and fiddlers in this part of the state in an effort to gather here the greatest assembly of musicians ever to take part in such an event in North Carolina.

Fiddling John Carson, champion of the South, will conduct the convention, and he will be seconded by Dud Vance, champion of East Tennessee.

The Blowing Rock telephone exchange had handled 42 long distance calls at 3 p. m., on the first full day of operation Wednesday. Only thirteen telephones had been installed that day, most of them in business houses.

Daily bus service between Johnson City, Tenn., and Blowing Rock was started this week. The bus arrives here just before noon each day and departs for Johnson City at 3 p. m.

The fifty girls at Camp Allou-Wes-Tee, conducted by Miss Mary Katherine Thompson of Charlotte, went on a hike to Boone Tuesday. Monday they hiked to Twin Peaks near here. Thursday night the girls will be presented by Miss Thompson in an amateur play, as the closing event of the first term of the camp. The second term will begin August 7.

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## Lodged In Jail on Charge of Incest

George Dollar of Valle Crucis, Arrested Monday on Serious Charge

George Dollar, 22, a resident of the Valle Crucis section, is being held in the county jail in default of a thousand dollar bond for alleged immoral relations with a thirteen-year-old sister. The girl was placed under the care of the county welfare officer by Clerk of the Court South, until next term of Watauga superior court, the defendant having waived the right to a preliminary hearing.

The warrant was sworn out by one Sherman Bentley of Valle Crucis. Bentley claims to have been an eyewitness to the alleged crime, which he says was perpetrated Saturday. Part of his statements can be corroborated, but it is thought on the whole that his evidence may be taken rather lightly.

A physician made examination of the little girl and it is understood he pronounced her chaste; however she has made confessions to improper conduct to some of the county officials. The Dollars come from a very illiterate family and seem inclined to grasp at any kind of story calculated to get the case settled.

Citizens of Valle Crucis had no suspicion that a condition like this existed between the two, however, there had been a little talk by some one calculated to link together the names of the man and an older sister in a criminal way.

## MAYVIEW MANOR TO BE SOLD AUGUST 27

Judge H. H. Watkins, of the United States district court, of South Carolina, sitting at Asheville for Judge E. Yates Webb, who is in Europe, signed an order last Saturday, fixing August 27 as the date of resale of the Mayview Manor property at Blowing Rock. The manor and annex, along with furnishings and all equipment, and a number of lots in Mayview park will be sold at this time under the direction of the court commissioners.

These properties have been offered for sale several times, the last sale being held on July 15, last. Each time the court has refused confirmation of sale owing to the price brought. The commissioners are in hopes that the sale of August 27 will be more successful than the previous ones.

## NEGRO CONVICT SHOT IN MAKING ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE

By RUPERT GILLETT

Blowing Rock, July 27.—Elmo Stewart, negro convict at work on Highway No. 17 just below here, made a break for liberty early Thursday morning as the convicts were being taken to work, but he was halted by a charge of buckshot from a guard's gun.

Stewart broke from the ranks, clambered up the bank, and was making for the laurel thicket when the guard shot.

"You got me," shrieked Stewart. "You're darn right I got you," the guard replied.

The buckshot took effect in Stewart's leg, but Dr. R. K. Bingham of Boone, who was called to attend him, said the negro was not seriously wounded.

of Greenwich.

R. M. Collins and E. M. Collins of Greensboro, were two others who spent the week-end at the Manor.

Mrs. Sidney Allen, Mrs. George Brandt of Greensboro, Mrs. Harris McCurry of Miami, Mrs. Edgar Egestrom of Los Angeles, and Miss Marie Brandt of Greensboro, were also week-end guests at the Manor.

Other parties registered from Knoxville, Richmond, Norfolk, Savannah, Columbia and other cities throughout the south.

A Charlotte party at Green Park was made up of Dr. W. W. Abernethy, winner of the golf tournament, R. H. Coffin and O. M. Abernethy.

A large Winston-Salem party at the same hotel was composed of Miss Odessa Hart, Miss Sadie Byerly, Mrs. Ben V. Matthews, J. H. McFarland and C. C. Hughes.

Another Charlotte party was composed of Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Draper, Mrs. Shields and Norman Draper.

Mr. and Mrs. Conner M. Story announced the birth of an eight-pound son Saturday night.

Billy Coffey, young son of Mr. and Mrs. George Coffey, has been ill of pneumonia for several days.

## WAGNER CASE BE CALLED AUG. 15TH

Witnesses Being Notified to Appear At Wilkesboro on that Date for Trial of Slaying of Earl Moody and Dexter Byrd

Witnesses and others interested in the case of H. S. Wagner, charged with the double slaying on last Christmas day of Earl Moody and Dexter Byrd, are being notified to appear at Wilkesboro on August 15, beginning of the second week of Wilkes county superior court, at which time, it is understood, the case will be called for trial. Wagner will be tried at this time for the slaying of Moody.

According to the Wilkes Journal, there are about 200 criminal cases to be tried at the August term of Wilkes superior court, and cases growing out of the recent failure of the Bank of Wilkes may also appear some time, but it is expected that the Wagner case will come up Monday morning of the second week. Judge P. A. McElroy will preside.

## 4,559 PUPILS REGISTERED IN WATAUGA'S SCHOOLS

The total enrollment in the Watauga county free schools up to last Saturday was 4,501 whites and 58 negroes out of a scholastic census of 4,841 whites and 55 colored according to Superintendent Smith Haggman.

Of these, 525 were high school pupils and 3,976 elementary pupils.

The free schools opened on July 11 to permit those children who attend the six-months' schools to finish the term by Christmas, before the roads get so bad as to make transportation difficult.

Bucharest, Rumania, July 23.—With the failure of Queen Marie to obtain a place on the Rumanian regency, Princess Helen, mother of the boy king Mihai (Michael) has suddenly loomed into prominence. She is given much space in the newspapers, while Queen Marie is seldom mentioned. Marie is already referred to by Rumanians as the "dowager queen," while Helen is called the "princess mother." Prominent Rumanians do not conceal their belief that the comely daughter of the late King Constantine of Greece, who was deserted by her husband, former Crown Prince Carol, will play a vital role in dynastic and state affairs of Rumania until her son becomes of age, 12 years hence. Although there is real affection between Dowager Queen Marie and Princess Helen, the latter's position as the mother of a ruling king, observers say, will divert the limelight on the royal stage from Ferdinand's widow, whose influence on the existing regency, if any, must be exercised indirectly through her second son, Prince Nicholas, who is a member. Reared in the strict atmosphere of German and Danish court, and inheriting much political acumen and a broad knowledge of state affairs from her father, Princess Helen is said to possess distinct ideas as to how a government should be conducted.

## ACE DEFEATS FLAMES ON ALTITUDE FLIGHT

Washington, July 25.—Lieutenant C. C. Champion, Jr., battled mightily for his life thousands of feet in the skies today with the engine of his airplane afire, and he won.

The navy aviator, a student at the post graduate school at Annapolis, had gone aloft in an effort to shatter the world's altitude record.

He carried two barographs. One was destroyed by the fire and the other, it is thought, was slightly affected by the vibration and flames. But if the mark it showed is correct—47,000 feet—Champion exceeded by nearly 7,000 feet the world's record which France has held for two years.

This will not be definitely known, however, until the bureau of standards has completed its inspection.

With several pistons completely torn out of the nine-cylinder air cooled engine, due probably to the lack of lubricating oil, Lieut. Champion slid down from his high perch, where the temperature was about 90 degrees below zero, and made a forced landing in a corn field on the edge of Bolling field, where the flight had started 6:47 o'clock this morning. On the downward flight, he battled with four separate fires in his engine. His remarkable pluck saved him.