

WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

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

VOL. XXXVIII, NO. 29

BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, AUGUST 11, 1927

PRICE FIVE CENTS

See Hoover as G. O. P. Presidential Choice

Southerners in Washington Believe Commerce Secretary Will Be Nominated

A majority of southerners seen here predict that Secretary Hoover will be the next Republican presidential nominee, says a Washington special of August 6 to the Charlotte Observer. There are several reasons for this: First, the good relief work he did in the Mississippi river flood region; second, he has encouraged business organizations in the south, and third, it is being whispered about that he is an administration favorite, especially with Secretary Mellon, of the treasury department.

"Hoover will be popular as a candidate in the south," said a southern Democratic congressman. "If elected president there would be no sectionalism in the administration of his office."

A lot of Hoover propaganda is being circulated, and a bit of it is that he will have the delegates from the southern states.

Frank O. Lowden was strong in the south in 1920. He expended goodly sums in Georgia and other states. Testimony before a senate committee showed that he gave one party leader in Georgia \$9,000 to help along the Lowden movement.

There is a promise of a real scramble in the south but the odds are on the man favored by the leaders of the present administration.

COVE CREEK HIGH SCHOOL WILL OPEN SEPTEMBER 5TH

Sugar Grove, Aug. 10—Work on the new addition to the Cove Creek high school plant is going forward rapidly. Poe & Triplett, contractors, of Lenoir, have the supervision of the building and they are rushing the work. They expect to have it ready for use by October 20.

The fall term of the Cove Creek high school will open September 5. Arrangements will be made to take care of all the work in the old building until the new high school building is completed.

The county board of education passed a resolution at its last meeting regarding tuition and transportation fees for high school students who live outside the local tax district. The tuition fee is \$3.00 per term and the transportation fee is also \$3.00 per term payable to the principal on September 5 and January 1. In case any student should not attend the full eight months these fees will be refunded.

High school text books have been ordered and will be on sale the opening day of school. No charges will be made in text books and students are urged to provide themselves with second hand books. New books will be sold for cash only.

Parents are urged to start their children the opening day and are invited to come themselves.

DELIGHTFUL FAMILY REUNION

On Saturday of last week at the beautiful home of District Attorney and Mrs. F. A. Linney of Boone, a reunion of the family of Mr. and Mrs. William (Boomer) Matheson, of Taylorsville, Alexander county, was held. Mrs. Linney being one of the daughters. Through many years this was an annual event at the Matheson home, but since the passage of the beloved parents, the children are to keep them up in the future, this being the first one held since the death of Mrs. Matheson.

Those present on this most enjoyable occasion were: Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Matheson and Miss Jean Booth Matheson, of Mooresville; Dr. J. P. Matheson of Charlotte; Mrs. H. C. Payne, Mary Ayers Payne and Miss Ettie Lee Kurd of Bowling Green, Ky. The guests remained over Sunday at the Linney residence, leaving for their homes Monday morning.

WAGNER REMOVED TO WILKESBORO FOR TRIAL

H. S. Wagner, who has been confined in the Watauga county jail since the spring term of superior court, for the slaying of Earl Moody and Dexter Byrd at Shulls Mills last Christmas day, was moved to Wilkesboro before daylight Monday morning by Sheriff Farthing. The removal was ordered by Judge P. A. McElroy, who is presiding at this term of Wilkes superior court, before whom the Wagner case will be tried beginning next Monday.

INJURIES FATAL TO REIDSVILLE MAN

Frank Foster Died in Watauga Hospital Monday Night, Following Automobile Accident Sunday Near Deep Gap

Frank Foster, 25, died at the Watauga Hospital Monday night at 8 o'clock, having never regained consciousness from injuries received when an automobile which he was driving turned over Sunday night near Deep Gap.

Young Foster, a resident of Reidsville, accompanied by Mr. George Hoover of Lexington, had spent the week-end at Blowing Rock. They came to Boone Sunday evening to visit a little with Mr. Baxter Linney, a college friend. Hoover, in whose automobile they were riding, insisted that they return to Blowing Rock and occupy their rooms again that night. Foster maintained that he must be at work Monday morning and offered to drive the car. Accordingly, Mr. Hoover went to sleep in the rear of the sedan, not being awakened until the car left the road just below Deep Gap. He suffered minor cuts and bruises while a fractured skull proved fatal to the driver. The car car turned over several times down the mountainside, and it is believed that the driver, because of loss of sleep, had also become semi-conscious.

Surviving are the parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Foster; two sisters, Madames E. B. Ware and J. E. Burton, all of Reidsville, and three brothers, W. R. Foster of Greensboro, and E. B. and J. R. Foster, of Reidsville.

Mr. Foster was connected with the state highway commission.

Relatives arrived Monday and accompanied the remains to Reidsville where interment will be made.

Seven Murder Cases in Wilkesboro Court

The Most Important of Which is the Hub Wagner Case, Set for Trial Next Monday

Wilkes county superior court for the trial of criminal cases only, convened at Wilkesboro Monday, with Judge P. A. McElroy, of Madison, presiding. Seven murder cases are on the docket in addition to a large number of other cases, the murder cases being: Hub Wagner, of Watauga county; Ray Reid and others; Clarence Jarvis, Sam Bullis, William Ferguson, Johnnie Whittington, and others, and L. M. Rynum, negro.

By agreement of counsel the Wagner case is set for next Monday, August 15th, and it is expected that the Watauga slayer will be arraigned at that time.

RAPID EDUCATIONAL GROWTH IS REVEALED

Raleigh, Aug. 8.—Remarkable growth of North Carolina high schools during the past 15 years is outlined in the current issue of "State School Facts," just off the press which gives figures showing that enrollment has increased from 12,470 in 1910 to 89,469 in 1926. The number of graduates in that time has increased from 510 to 11,352.

An increase of 618 per cent is indicated in the 15-year span. In 1910 only 2.3 per cent of the total school enrollment was in high schools, while in 1926 the high schools claimed 11 per cent, the survey shows. The figures cover all high schools, white and negro, urban and rural, private and public.

The School Facts show 543 accredited high schools, or an average of over five for each county, 479 of them public. Of the number, 453 are white and 26 for negroes.

In 1915-16, the survey sets forth, only one pupil out of every six entering high school in North Carolina graduated four years later, while the 1925-26 figures show that approximately one-half graduated—approximately three times as many pupils proportionately graduated in 1925-26 as compared with a decade before.

Charles A. Kent, prominent tobacco manufacturer of Winston-Salem, died Tuesday night. Mr. Kent was president of the Brown and Williamson Tobacco Company.

Infant, nine-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ira Douglas, Yadkin county residents, was instantly killed when struck by lightning Monday night.

Soil Survey for Watauga County

W. A. Davis Now Engaged in Making Map Containing Mass of Information Relative to County

The United States bureau of soils, in co-operation with the North Carolina experiment station is making a soil survey of Watauga county. W. A. Davis, representing the N. C. experiment station is in Boone conducting the work, which is now well under way.

The object of the soil survey is to map and classify the different soils of the county and to report their agricultural value and agricultural possibilities. In order to show the location of the various soils it is necessary to make a complete map of the county, showing, in addition to soils, all public and second class roads, houses, churches and school-houses, drainages, railroads, villages and towns. Each soil is represented on the map by color, but in such a way as not to obscure the other details on the map.

A report containing a general description of the county, giving its location, topography, drainage systems, chief towns, transportation facilities, markets, climate, agriculture and a full description of soil types will accompany the map.

The results of the survey are published in the bulletin issued by the United States department of agriculture and are sent free upon application to any person desiring one.

MATNEY MATTERS

Matney, Aug. 8.—At present the Epworth League here has a membership of 100, and 25 visitors were present Saturday night, making a total of 125 present. At that time a pageant, entitled "Here am I, Send Me," was given.

Lillie Baird, little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Baird, is very sick with fever.

Misses Linnis and Margaret Hoghead have returned to their home in Butler, Tenn., after a short visit to relatives here.

Services were held in the M. E. church here Sunday by Rev. P. L. Horner. His text was "Are you burying your talent?"

Mr. Askew made an interesting talk to parents at the M. E. church Saturday night, his subject being "Importance of sending children to school."

Mrs. W. A. Harmon, daughter of Mrs. Bertha Baird, has returned to her home in Jitssville, Fla., after visiting her mother here for three months.

An interesting debate was rendered in Matney school Friday afternoon by Mr. Askew's school children of the seventh and eighth grades. The subject was: "Resolved, That it is better to get married than to become an old maid or bachelor." Several parents and other visitors were present.

Mr. Walter Charch has moved back to his old home. He has been living in Elizabethton, Tenn., for the last few years.

Mr. Lee Carrender has put 1,800 small fish in Crab Apple creek.

Following is the honor roll for the first month of the 1926-27 session of the Matney school:

- First grade—Lillie Baird, Violet McGuire.
- Second grade—Lec McGuire, Louise Shook.
- Third grade—Aime McGinnis, Marvin Baird, Della McGuire.
- Fourth grade—Dellia Smith.
- Fifth grade—Carric Edmisten, Millie Edmisten, Roy Townsend.
- Sixth grade—Lucy Smith.
- Seventh grade—Phoebe Baird.
- Eighth grade—Clay Baird, Lavola Carrender, Hazel Davis.

NEWS OF LAUREL CITY

Shulls Mills, R. F. D., Aug. 10.—The Girl Scouts have returned home from camp because of the rainy weather.

Miss Fay Danner and others attended the birthday party given by Miss Nina Mae White Monday night. Don Isaacs and family are visiting Mr. Isaacs' mother, Mrs. W. C. Danner.

Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Brown and Clyde and Leonard Calloway visited Mrs. Alfred Isaacs Saturday night.

Will Isaacs, of Bristol, Tenn., is here on account of the illness of his mother.

J. A. Wolf of Rural Hall visited the family of J. C. Brown over the last week-end.

Mabel Brown has been quite ill for the past few days.

NEWS OF WEEK BLOWING ROCK

Plans Being Perfected for Show: Benefit Fiddlers' Contest Was Successful; Social and Personal News

By RUPERT GILLET
Blowing Rock, Aug. 10.—The final program for the Blowing Rock House Show, which will be ready for publication Thursday, will be the most elaborate ever carried out in the annual event here, it was said Monday by Miss Elise Booger, chairman of the committee in charge.

An all-day program has been outlined; whereas, heretofore, only one afternoon has been devoted to the show. Prizes will be given to the best riders in all classes. An interesting contest for children will be included. Band music will be provided throughout the day.

The committee is awaiting word from former Governor Morrison, who has been asked for permission to use his property on Green Hill for the show.

The proceeds of the show, above expenses, will be given to the Blowing Rock community fund.

Goode Was Not in Police Court

J. S. Goode, Jr., of Hickory, was not fined for drunkenness here as was reported last week, said Mayor Sudderth Monday. The policeman who gave the reporter the information, the mayor said, got Mr. Goode's name confused with that of the man seen here.

Fiddlers' Contest

Miss Mabel Cook of Rutherford was adjudged the best of the thirty fiddlers who took part in the Blowing Rock fire department's fiddlers' contest Friday and Saturday nights. Miss Cook was awarded a medal as first prize.

Blowing Rock string band won the prize for the best performances in its class. Ralph Story of Blowing Rock won the banjo prize, Byrd Moore of Newland the guitar prize, and A. R. Greene of Boone the prize for the best back and wing dancer. In addition, \$100 was divided among the musicians who took part in the contests. Total receipts were \$172.89, of which \$90 was the share of the fire department.

Rattlesnake Pete, Still on Job

Rattlesnake Pete, hunter of snakes and maker of souvenirs, arrived in Blowing Rock Wednesday with the skin of his 963rd rattlesnake. He had killed fifteen reptiles since his previous visit, three weeks ago. One of them, he said, was four and a half feet long.

Pete is going the latter part of this week to Grandfather mountain on a snake hunt with the determination to make his record an even thousand. He says he has heard of a cave on the mountain reputed to contain a rattlesnake den.

S. A. L. Parlor Car Service

The parlor car bus line operated by the Motor Transportation Company of the South and making connections with the Seaboard Air-Line at Rutherfordton has started making regular runs, and a ticket office has been opened in a local hotel under the charge of W. T. Pullen, Jr. Tickets are sold here to all points on the Seaboard and its connections.

The bus arrives here at 6:30 p. m. and departs at 10:15 a. m. It runs from Boone through Blowing Rock, Linville, Montezuma, Crossnore and Ashford to Rutherfordton.

Pitts Held for Superior Court

Oscar Pitts, who was arrested several days ago by Chief of Police L. E. Story, was bound over to superior court Monday by Mayor Sudderth on a charge of violating the liquor law. Three pints of liquor were found in his possession, Chief Story said.

Read Calendar Incorrectly

Marshall Foster, who last month violated probation because he read the calendar incorrectly and thought his period of abstinence and sobriety was ended, found himself again in the toils of the law Tuesday on a charge of drunkenness. This time, Mayor Sudderth was more lenient and merely fined Foster \$10 and costs. When he violated probation, Foster was sent to the county jail for thirty days.

The concert at Mayview Manor Saturday night for the benefit of the Blowing Rock fire department brought in a total of \$67.60, said Chief J. A. Panella Tuesday. Miss Ruth Kent, pianist of the Quillard Foundation, Stephen Gardner, tenor of Washington, N. C., and Prof. and Mrs. I. G. Greer of the Appalachian State Normal school were the entertainers.

County Superintendent Talks of County Schools

Hagaman Says Schools Are Crowded, But Says Teachers Must Not "Pad" Reports

"Most of the schools of the county have opened their 1926-27 session with splendid enrollments. Many of the schools are very much crowded, especially in the one- and two-teacher schools," said County Superintendent Smith Hagaman Saturday.

"The board of education and I regret very much that there is no possible way to provide money needed for more teachers," continued Mr. Hagaman. "The law regulates the number of teachers allowed in any school on the basis of the last year's average attendance, that is, two teachers this year on an average attendance of 40 last year; three teachers on 65, four on 100 and one additional on every 35 additional pupils. The state board will not allow any more to go into the budget."

"We are all very anxious to make the best possible allowance in every school and especially those schools that lost a teacher by reason of falling down on attendance last year."

"The board is exceedingly anxious that every reasonable means be used to secure the best attendance ever this year; but in our zeal to make it such and every report shall speak the truth. The board has the impression that in a very few instances in the past the final report was 'padded' slightly. No teacher can afford to allow herself to be influenced to strain the final report in the least. A teacher must be the soul of honor. A teacher's work is measured largely by her ability to arouse such an interest in the community as will secure a good attendance."

Highway Official Hears Evidence in Brown Case

Alleged Irregularities in Work of Patrolman Throated Out Tuesday Before Mr. Riggs

Mr. Riggs, of the state highway commission, on Tuesday heard a mass of evidence in the case charging W. H. Brown, patrolman on Highway No. 60, with various and sundry things, among them being drunkenness and irregularities in his highway work. Attorney W. R. Lovitt appeared for Mr. Brown, and Assistant District Attorney Ralph Bogham did the prosecuting. Probably half a hundred witnesses were summoned, but only part of them were examined, Mr. Riggs stating before they could all be examined that he had heard enough evidence on which to render a decision. Mr. Brown's friends claim that it was a case of persecution rather than prosecution for any "crime" committed, and that when Mr. Riggs gives his decision, Brown will be exonerated on every charge brought against him.

A stenographer took down the evidence and it is expected that a decision will be reached in a few days by the highway official.

ANDY MAST ARRESTED ON LIQUOR CHARGE

After a chase that extended across three townships, Deputy Sheriff Poly Wyke on Friday morning of last week, captured Andy Mast, five gallons of liquor and an automobile. Mast's companion, John Baird, escaped.

Deputy Wyke and Policeman Garland, of Boone, lay in wait for the car, which was reported to be coming up the mountain from the direction of North Wilkesboro with a load of liquor. At about 2 o'clock Friday morning it was learned that the alleged rum runners had passed before the officers took up their stand on the highway. Next morning, Mr. Wyke had some business to attend to at Sugar Grove, and there saw Mast and Baird. The deputy gave chase, pursuing the pair for some miles and finally overtaking them. Baird dashed to the woods and escaped, but Mast, liquor and car were brought to Boone. Greer is still in jail here.

SENATOR SIMMONS IN STATESVILLE HOSPITAL

United States Senator F. M. Simmons, of New Bern, is at Long's Sanatorium, Statesville, for a few days' treatment.—Statesville Landmark, August 5th.

TAX LEVY FOR NEXT YEAR \$1.33

Substantial Reduction Made Possible Through Cut of 20 Cents Per \$100 Valuation For School Purposes

At the August meeting of the board of county commissioners, the tax levy for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1928, was fixed at \$1.33 on the \$100 property valuation, fiscal year, or a reduction of 17 cents on the hundred.

The reduction to the taxpayers is made possible through a cut in the school tax assessment from 70 to 50 cents per hundred. The commissioners found it necessary to levy an emergency fund of five cents on the hundred to take care of the Hub Wagner murder trial, which, it is estimated, will cost around \$1,500.

General Levy

The levy for the various county purposes is appropriated as follows:

General county fund	\$.15
Emergency fund	.05
Schools	.50
County roads, interest on bonds, redemption and sinking fund	.10
Road maintenance fund	.20
Jail bonds, interest	.3
Total	\$1.33

Poll Tax

General county fund	\$.95
Schools	1.50
Roads, interest on bonds, redemption and sinking fund	.79
Road maintenance	.36
Total	\$3.60

JOHNSON COUNTY FAIR AT MT. CITY AUGUST 23, 24, 25 AND 26

Senator E. E. Butler, president of the Johnson County Fair Association, says the state is all set for the most spectacular entertainments and the largest exhibitions of farm products ever shown, when the fair gets under way in Mountain City on August 23rd.

The Johnson county fair has long been considered the gala annual event of eastern Tennessee and Northwestern North Carolina, and this year its sponsors have gone the limit to provide entertainment that will suit the whims of all comers. With the opening of a first class thoroughfare connecting Johnson county with No. 60 at the Carolina line, people who heretofore have stayed at home on account of bad roads, will be able to get all the thrills of fair week without the hazards of a rough and perhaps slippery road.

Noteworthy is the fact that in all the Appalachian region, the Johnson county fair is the only organization of its kind that now exists—the others having dropped by the wayside long ago. But this one is an institution, conducted for the past fifteen years on sound business principles, and each year shows an increase of interest and a substantial growth.

Various carnival attractions have been arranged, many of them free of charge and the women's department and livestock exhibitions will be second to none. On page eight of this issue will be found a summary of the good things to be expected at the big event.

REVIVAL AT MT. PLEASANT LUTHERAN BEGINS AUG. 18

A protracted meeting will begin at the Mount Pleasant Lutheran church on August 18, at 11 a. m., and will continue throughout the week. The following ministers are expected to take part in the services: Rev. J. A. Yount, Boone; Rev. R. M. Carpenter, Hickory; Rev. C. N. Yount, Hickory; Dr. J. L. Morgan, Salisbury; and Rev. N. D. Yount, Bessemer City.

"I have never forged or signed any man's name to a Wilkes school or county note in my life," said Clem Wrenn, cashier of the defunct Bank of Wilkes, Tuesday. This statement was made after a sworn statement by Mr. Wrenn on Monday admitting the forging of names to county and school notes. Mr. Wrenn, confined to his room by sickness, denies having given out signed statements to his attorneys, assuming responsibility for notes totaling \$150,000. Solicitor John R. Jones, however, states that the confession was drawn by Wrenn's lawyers, submitted to him and when a few minor changes were made, his signature was affixed.