

# WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

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BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1927

FIVE CENTS A COPY

## Many Cases Disposed of In Superior Court

### Criminal Docket May Last Until Friday; Wagner Case Moved To Wilkes County

Watauga superior court which convened Monday with Judge P. A. McElroy presiding, is still in session. Many cases of minor importance have been disposed of, with indications that the criminal docket will not be cleared up before this afternoon or perhaps tomorrow.

According to a ruling made by Judge McElroy, Herbert Wagner, slayer of Earl Moody and Dexter Byrd, will not be tried for the second offense at this time. Answering petitions of the state for a trial by a Watauga jury, the jurist expressed the opinion that the defendant's acts had stirred up a lot of feeling in this county which would render it unwise to try the case here. He stated that the prisoner was entitled to a fair and impartial trial and that he not only wanted him to have one but expected him to feel that it was fair. Therefore, he ordered that the prisoner be removed to the Wilkes county jail where he will be held until the next criminal term of court there. Solicitor John R. Jones stated that the governor would be asked for a special term in December to try the case, in order that the regular Wilkes docket might not be further congested.

It is impossible to handle the full proceedings of the court this week, however next week complete findings in all the cases will be given.

## PEOPLE COMING AND GOING IN BLOWING ROCK SECTION

Mr. and Mrs. Don Reid and Mrs. Reid's sister Miss Mary Tester are home from Jacksonville, Fla. and are visiting relatives in Blowing Rock and Valle Crucis. Mr. Reid is the son of Mr. and Mrs. E. Reid of Blowing Rock. Mrs. Reid was formerly Miss Anna Tester of Valle Crucis. They will be here until the latter part of September.

Miss Lane Fisher of Southern Pine has been the guest of Miss Polly Hays for the past two weeks.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Warren will return to their home in Mount Airy for a few weeks before locating for the winter at Blowing Rock where Mr. Warren is director of the Blowing Rock band.

Mrs. E. G. Davis and daughter Ruth who spent the late summer with Mrs. Davis' mother and sister, Mrs. Reeves and Miss Lena Reeves, left Tuesday for Richmond where they visited friends for a few days before motoring to their home at Hot Springs, Va.

Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Prevette had as their guests Sunday Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Spratt and Ernest, Jr., Mrs. Jake Moss and Jake, Jr., and Mrs. S. A. Hollers, all of Charlotte.

Richard Derj Turner and Mrs. Turner of Raleigh were the guests Sunday of their cousins, Mr. and Mrs. Gillett.

Mr. John Panella and Dr. A. P. DuLong of Charlotte were the guests Sunday of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Panella. Mr. Panella accompanied his guests to Asheville returning by way of Statesville where Mrs. Panella met him Tuesday.

Mrs. Dai Tester who has been some time in the Davis hospital at Statesville, following an operation, is reported improving steadily.

## TAM C. BOWIE RESIGNS AS SUPERIOR COURT JUDGE

Monday Governor McLean reported the resignation of Judge Tam C. Bowie of Ashe county as special Superior Court Judge.

Judge Bowie's term would have expired in April 1929. He was appointed following the passage of the emergency judge's act by the last legislature.

Judge Bowie was mentioned with others last week in names presented to the Governor when the latter was considering appointment of a successor to Judge Raymond C. Parker of Forsyth, who died recently, as judge of the eleventh district. Roy L. Deal of Winston-Salem was appointed to fill out Judge Parker's term.

Judge Bowie later in the day said he would not reconsider his resignation. The Governor declared in a formal statement.

Judge Bowie's resignation finds no explanation in Raleigh political circles.

## MR. BROWN EXONERATED

W. Hardin Brown, patrolman on Highway No. 60 west of Boone, has received a letter from Mr. Riggs, of the state highway department, exonerating Mr. Brown of all charges brought against him in the recent hearing held in the courthouse here. The case was heard before Mr. Riggs and quite a bit of interest was shown in the hearing. Mr. Brown was represented by Attorney W. R. Lovill and the prosecution by Attorney Ralph Bingham. Mr. Brown along with other patrolmen, has been granted an increase in salary.

## NEWS OF WEEK BLOWING ROCK

### Band Renders Sacred Concert; Boone Trail Marker To Be Erected; Addition to Water System; Local Interest in New Statesville Concern

By RUPERT GILLET

The Blowing Rock band rendered its first public concert Sunday under the direction of Joseph Warren, musical director of Mount Airy. The concert was before a crowd of several hundred on the lawn of the Watauga Inn.

During the intermission the band quartet rendered two selections, both sacred and Earl Coffey sang "The Old Rugged Cross" with a violin accompaniment by Mr. Warren.

The program was: "First Prize March," "Red White and Blue," "Maryland, My Maryland," "Rustling Leaves," "Wont You Be My Sweetheart," "First in Action," Intermission, "America," "Captain March," "Old Fells at Home," "Nearer My God to Thee," "Star Spangled Banner." The concert was repeated two hours later at Boone.

The Blowing Rock band has been practicing only a little more than a month under Mr. Warren's direction. It is considered remarkable that it is now able to give concerts after so short a preparation.

During the winter the band will give several concerts here and at surrounding towns.

A Boone Trail marker will be erected here at the intersection of highways nos. 17 and 175, it was said Monday by T. H. Coffey, president of the local unit of the Boone Trail Association.

Just when the tablet will arrive and be unveiled Mr. Coffey said he did not know.

"Blowing Rock's new water system has stood the test of a rushing summer season," said Manager Ron Greene Thursday, "but to make doubly sure that we will have no water shortage, we shall, within the next month or two, install a new main between the Mayview and Blowing Rock Hill reservoirs by way of the power house which draws water from the Watauga spring. This will assure an equal flow between the reservoirs."

"During the last six weeks, nearly all of the cottages have been occupied and the hotels have had more than a normal number of guests. The water system has therefore been carrying a peak load and at no time has there been the slightest danger of a shortage."

A thief who evidently needed clothing entered Mayview Laundry on Wednesday night and stole a suit of clothes. Nothing else was missed however. Moreover it seemed that the thief only took that suit that fitted for the missing one was one of the poorest in the pressing shop.

Efforts were made Thursday to trail the thief, but without success.

Tip Duck, negro, was found by Policeman I. E. Story to be carrying wicked looking implements. He was taken before Mayor George M. Suderth, who bound him over to Superior court on a charge of carrying concealed weapons.

Two Blowing Rock firms will have part in the construction of a new plant being erected in Statesville by the Iredell Improvement Co. for the Phoenix Woolen Co. J. A. Panella has been given the contract for all the plumbing work and Ed Thompson has been employed as engineer.

The Blowing Rock Fire department Tuesday night elected L. A. Underdown as chief to succeed J. A. Panella, resigned. Mr. Underdown was formerly assistant chief. Lloyd Robbins was promoted from captain to assistant chief to fill the vacancy, and George Robbins was elected captain in Lloyd Robbins' place.

The department voted to have a chicken stew at the Gem cafe one day next week, probably Saturday night. The department still owes \$80 on the alarm siren, said C. S. Prevette, president, and it is hoped that this chicken stew will raise the money for the final payment.

## BOONE ROUTE 2 NEWS

Miss Estelle Norris has returned to Roanoke, Va., after a week's visit to her aunt, Mrs. C. C. Greene, and other relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. B. B. Greene announce the birth of a daughter.

Good progress is being made on the road and bridge work on Highway 69 from Jefferson to Boone.

Mr. H. C. Hodges has just returned from a pleasure trip to Virginia.

Mr. C. C. Church and family of Wilkesboro were visitors in this section Sunday.

Frank Greene is very sick at the home of his grandfather, Rev. Ed. Greene.

The school at Maple Springs, taught by Mrs. Carl Byers, is getting along nicely.

## Equalization Board Holds Meeting Here

### Requests for Participation in \$100,000 Special Fund Made by Four Counties Friday

Representatives of Iredell, Catawba, Alexander and Watauga counties appeared before the state equalization board which met at the Appalachian Normal school last Friday and presented requests for participation in the \$100,000 special fund, but the board voted to withhold the allotments until the schools in each of these counties are actually under way and final information can be obtained.

The purpose of the special fund, it was explained, is three-fold: To provide for unexpected increases in enrollment, to meet emergencies and misfortunes that may arise, and to help in improving the personnel of teachers, especially in those counties that are behind.

These counties, it was said, showed an expected material increase in attendance, and anticipated a raise in the personnel of their teaching forces through higher grade certificates than those held by teachers of the previous year.

The board also discussed in detail the plans for gathering information as to the segregated items of property as returned by the list takers for the year 1927-28. The plan being worked out contemplates the gathering of a vast fund of information on every county in the state, which will include the amount of every type of property and the valuation placed on it by the local authorities.

## NEGRO JAILED FOLLOWING ROBBERY OF COOK STORE

A negro laborer on Highway 69 was lodged in the Watauga bastille Tuesday and will likely be given a hearing while court is in session for the robbery of the Dan Cook store on Route 2 Monday night. Thirty five dollars were taken from the cash drawer. Entrance was made by forcing one of the windows.

Mr. Cook came to town Tuesday, ran up with the negro who fled. Cook followed in swift pursuit but the colored boy made his escape. A blood hound and its owner, a Mr. Cole, of Sherwood, were called into play. The dog readily picked up the trail and followed it to a point on a road where the negro had caught a motor vehicle. Going on to Blowing Rock, however, the store-breaker was arrested. The officer took from the negro about \$24 and a flash light which Mr. Cook readily recognized as his property.

## CLARENCE CANNON ARRESTED FOR FORGERY

Clarence Cannon, wanted in this county for forgery, was arrested Monday night at the home of Dewey Harmon on Beech Creek by Deputies Lowrance and Edmisten. The officers had gone to the home in search of Dewey Harmon, wanted in connection with the Valle Crucis bank robbery, and were not expecting to find Cannon there. However, the officers felt if they could not get the man they were after, they would bring the alleged forger to the bar of justice. He was brought to Boone Tuesday and released on \$1,000 bond for his appearance at the spring term of Watauga superior court.

## BROWNLOW JACKSON CALLS FOR REPUBLICAN MEETING

Brownlow Jackson, chairman of the Republican State Executive committee, has issued a formal call for a meeting of the Committee to be held in Greensboro on Thursday the 22nd in the ball room of the King Cotton Hotel.

This meeting has been called for the purpose of naming a National committeeman to succeed Judge Johnson J. Hayes, who resigned upon receiving a recess appointment as judge of the middle district of North Carolina, and for the transaction of such other business as may come before the session.

## WAYNE B. WHEELER DEAD

Wayne B. Wheeler, general counsel of the Anti-Saloon League of America, died at Battle Creek Michigan Monday. He was taken to the Sanitarium three days ago from his summer home at Little Point Sable Mich.

Mr. Wheeler became ill last Thursday with a kidney ailment from which he had been undergoing treatment for several years. He was removed from his home to a hospital and after examination rushed to the sanitarium where it was at first decided to perform an operation.

## SCHOOL DENTAL CLINIC

Dr. Newman, state school dentist, will be in Watauga county for six weeks visiting the schools for the free treatment of school children between the ages of six and thirteen.

## VALLE CRUCIS BANK ROBBERY

### Troy Cannon in Jail and Being Made for Dewey Harmon For Holding Up Cashier, Relieving Him of \$196.

Troy Cannon, arrested Monday night in connection with the robbery of the Valle Crucis bank, was tried in superior court Wednesday morning and sentenced to serve from three to five years in the state prison. His honor, Judge McElroy, was disposed to let the boy off rather light because of the fact that he bore a good reputation and evidence tended to show that he was probably forced into the crime by Dewey Harmon, who has not yet been arrested for his part in the hold-up.

Troy Cannon is in the county jail, poses are searching the hills and valleys of the Beech Creek section for Dewey Harmon for holding up Cashier Martin L. Herman Monday afternoon and robbing the Valle Crucis bank of cash to the amount of \$196.97. Cannon was arrested Monday night at the home of his father just across the state line in Tennessee. He is said to have confessed to his part in the affair, and voluntarily returned to this county in company with his father, reporting at the courthouse Tuesday morning.

According to Cashier Herman, the two men, who were unknown to him, came to the bank under the pretext of getting a loan. They were informed that the bank was not in position to make a loan at that time. They left the bank, shortly returning and asked for a smaller loan than they had previously asked for. Mr. Herman again informed them that he could not make the loan. He referred to his book work. The short man, which later developed to be Cannon, Mr. Herman said, poked a gun through the cashier's window, covering the cashier, while the taller of the two men, Dewey Harmon, entered the vault and took all the cash in sight. As he left, he gave Mr. Herman a terrific blow on the left temple, knocking him down. He lay unconscious for several minutes and recovered before anyone came in. The robbery was planned at a very opportune time, as all officials were in Boone attending superior court.

From the description Mr. Herman was able to give of the men, it was not long before their trail was picked up. They were traveling in a Studebaker car, and went down the Watauga river to near the home of Dewey Harmon, where the car was abandoned. The sheriff was notified as soon as possible and took up the chase, which resulted in the arrest of Cannon. Poses searched Monday night and all day Tuesday for Harmon, but up until time of going to press he had not been apprehended. It is understood that he is wanted on one or two other charges beside the bank hold-up. He is described as being tall and slender, with black hair and black eyes, and when the robbery was committed he was dressed in overalls.

The robbery of Monday afternoon is the first successful affair of its kind in the history of Watauga county, although two previous attempts have been made to rob this bank.

## GRANDFATHER NEWS

Banner Elk, Sept. 7.—The Grandfather school is progressing nicely, with an enrollment of 96. The school has enlarged its basketball court, and the students are anxious to be champions of the river section. So far the team has been very successful. Last Friday Foscoe came over for a game, taking the lead, but at the end of the third quarter they refused to finish the game, so the local team is credited with winning the game.

Miss Mary Fox sent the week-end with Miss Mabel Henson on Cove Creek.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Lewis and family spent Sunday as the guests of Mrs. A. V. Moody.

Mr. and Mrs. George Fox have gone to New Jersey, where they will spend the winter.

Miss Lola Jester has returned to her home here after spending some time in Pennsylvania.

When Years Would County Prof. If Shakespeare were alive today would he be looked upon as a very remarkable man?

Stude: Decidedly, sir. He'd be about three hundred years old.

Knew His Capacity Mrs. Casey: "Oh, Mrs. Murphy, your husband has been run in for intoxication. Run down and bail him out."

Mrs. Murphy: "Sure now, if my owl man's drunk, you couldn't pump him out."

## Mr. Oscar L. Hardin Passes Away Sunday

### Prominent Citizen of Boone Dead Following Long Illness Funeral Monday

Mr. Oscar L. Hardin, son of one of Watauga's oldest families, and popular business man of Boone for many years, succumbed at his elegant new home on North Water Street, Sunday morning, following an illness covering a period of about two years, during which time he failed to respond to treatment taken at different hospitals. Last spring he was taken to Mayo Brothers, world-famous surgeons of Rochester, Minn., who gave no hope of his recovery from the chronic affliction. Since that time his condition grew worse gradually until the end came. He was 44 years old.

Mr. Hardin was a member of one of the most prominent families of Watauga county. His father Mr. William Hardin, having died about three years ago. He was a graduate of the University of North Carolina and for many years was engaged in business at Hickory, N. C. and Johnson City, Tenn. During later years he was a junior partner of the firm of Henry J. Hardin & Co., of this city and transacted business periodically up until the business was sold to the Egger-Ashey Co.

A bright, likable fellow, Mr. Hardin readily made new friends and strengthened old ties of friendship and was a leader in church and community life of the community. For many years he has been active in the affairs of the Boone Methodist church, being engaged as a member of its board of stewards, working out the intricate details of church finance and lending a hand wherever possible in other branches of religious endeavor.

Funeral services were conducted from the Methodist church Monday afternoon, the pastor, Rev. M. B. Wooley, performing the last rites. Throngs of friends and relatives came from far and near to pay their last respects and place banks of lovely floral offerings upon the bier of their departed brother.

Deceased was survived by a wife, before her marriage, Miss Suma Little, daughter of the late Dr. H. McD. Little, and two sons, Robert Bogue and Billy Mac.

## MRS. CRITCHER'S MOTHER DIES IN WILKES COUNTY

Mrs. Dora Russell, mother of Mrs. T. L. Critcher of Bamboo, died at her home at Boomer, Wilkes county, last Saturday afternoon at the age of 80 years. Mrs. Russell was the widow of John Russell, of Wilkes county and is survived by four children, three daughters and one son, Mrs. Critcher, Mrs. Jernon of Leaslip, Mrs. Eller of Maryland, and William Russell of Boomer. The funeral and interment took place Sunday afternoon at Leaslip, attended by a large number of relatives and friends.

## ZIONVILLE NEWS

Zionville, Sept. 7.—Born to Mr. and Mrs. W. O. Stephens, on August 21, a daughter.

Mrs. Monroe Greer has been quite sick at her home here for some time but is now improving.

Donnelly Wilson of Akron, Ohio brother of Mrs. Will Miller, has returned to his home after a short visit here.

Mr. and Mrs. Theo Greer of Knoxville, Iowa, are visiting relatives in Zionville.

Mr. and Mrs. Ciny Reese are now occupying their new home in lower Zionville.

Misses Ruth and Edna Thomas and Fred Castle spent a few hours in Mountain City Saturday.

Miss Grace Pennel of Silverstone, has been visiting her sisters, Messdames Reese and Stephens, for the past week.

Sherman Winebarger is again with homefolks here after an absence of several months.

Shelton Penn came over from Driston, Saturday to spend the weekend, and on his return took Mrs. Penn and children, who have spent a few months in the village.

Mrs. Fannie Jones of Gastonia has been visiting friends in this vicinity for a few days.

Mr. and Mrs. Solomon Grogan, Mr. and Mrs. D. H. Grogan and Hunter Grogan motored to Wilkesboro Sunday for a few days' visit with relatives.

I. Greer and son made a business trip to Marion, Va., last Friday.

Roy Potter of Denver, Colo., has returned to his home after spending a few days with his mother here.

Governor McLean on Saturday appointed Roy L. Deal, city attorney of Winston-Salem, as superior court judge from the 11th judicial district to fill out the unexpired term of Judge Raymond G. Parker, who died last Thursday morning. Judge Deal's tenure of office will expire in November, 1928.

## SAYS FLOGGING CAUSED DEATH

### Former Wataugan, Dying, Says Ku Klux Klan Administered Beating Which Contributed Directly to His Death—Three Recognized.

Mr. Willett Adams, who for a little more than a year had been a resident of Johnson county, Tennessee, died at his home on Monday of last week, following a general physical breakdown, which had its beginning several months ago. Deceased was a son of Mr. A. S. Adams, well known Wataugan.

The last home owned by Mr. Adams in Watauga county was on upper Mear Camp. It was there that the dark cloud formed which hangs over his death. It is well known that just before his departure for Tennessee, a band of men, alleged to be members of the Ku Klux Klan, leastwise wearing the regalia thereof, entered his home at night, took Mr. Adams from his bed, and administered to him a most brutal flogging. This crime against society was the result of rumors that Adams refused to allow some member of his household to attend Sunday School, or perhaps church services.

Following the whipping, Adams, broken of body, humiliated and disgraced, headed the mandates of the so-called, lawless mob, went to Tennessee and bought an humble place of abode and tried to overcome the haunting memories of his persecutors. He had always been a hard-working citizen, useful as a fine mechanic, but since the flogging had been unable to do manual labor. He is alleged to have stated in his death bed that the abuse of the night riders was solely responsible for his death. He also stated that he recognized at least three of the hooded men. The Democrat up to the time of press had been unable to secure affidavits setting forth all the last-minute revelations.

Deceased was 49 years of age and is survived by a wife and a number of children. Funeral and interment at Hopewell church Wednesday.

## BLUE RIDGE TOWNSHIP S. S. ASSOCIATION MEETS

Last Sunday, September 4, the Blue Ridge Township Sunday School convention was held with Laurel Fork Baptist church, the session lasting all day with dinner on the ground and a complete program carried out. Miss Minnie Day, township president, and N. L. Harrison, county secretary, made addresses, and kept the convention going during the morning. In the afternoon Mr. Day, a Watauga county religious worker, made a ringing talk on the Sunday school and its relation to the church and community. The county president, Mr. E. N. Hahn, was present and spoke concerning the organization of townships, Sunday schools and classes. The county vice president, Prof. I. G. Greer, made an interesting talk on how to get young people interested in Sunday school work. Dr. J. M. Hodges outlined in a very effective manner, how to get the adults interested in the Sunday school, and how to keep them interested.

All in all it was a glorious day, full of inspiration to those attending, with everybody happy when the session closed. Blue Ridge is going strong in Sunday school work and they have a movement on foot to organize two new schools. President Hahn and other county officers are anxious that every township start with this work at once before winter begins. Call on your Sunday school, confer with officers and call your township convention as early as possible, and the county president, vice president and secretary will be glad to assist you in this work.—Reported.

## ROMINGER HAPPENINGS

Rominger, Sept. 7.—The Three Forks Baptist association held at Zion Hill last week was well attended and good order prevailed.

A singing choir from near Butler, Tenn., entertained the folks at the Bethany Baptist church last Sunday. The choir was led by Mr. "Ike" Cable.

A series of meetings is in progress at Piney Grove M. E. church this week.

Misses Birdie, Yvonne and Pearl Gilliam have entered the Cove Creek high school for the 1927-28 session.

Messrs. Lee Harmon, Louis Harmon and M. P. Trickett are having great fun chasing foxes with their dogs these cool nights.

Mr. A. L. Ward has sold his farm here and purchased a home near Boone.

The corn crop in this section is late but fairly good, provided an early frost does not get it.