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BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA

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Dairy Picnic at Beaver Dam Last Saturday

Splendid Talks in Forenoon and Sports in Afternoon Make Up Thoroughly Enjoyable Day

It was the consensus of opinion of those present that it had been many a day since a more enjoyable occasion had taken place than the Beaver Dam Dairy picnic last Saturday. In the forenoon a splendid talk was made by James M. Gray, assistant director of the North Carolina extension service. Mr. Gray was followed by H. R. Niswonger and W. L. Clewinger, who made interesting talks.

After the basket lunch was served the various contests were staged, including the "husband calling contest." This feature proved to be a decided hit of the afternoon and the cash prize was won by Mrs. Chas. Clay.

Before the day was over the results of the cheese scoring contest was announced, which definitely decided the permanent ownership of the silver loving cup. The cup was won by the Beaver Dam Cheese factory, with Cove Creek second and Brushy Fork third.

Those present at the picnic decided that a dairy picnic must be held in this community next year, and elected a committee composed of C. J. Farthing, Clyde Perry, Mrs. Charles Clay, Mrs. Dora Swift and Mrs. E. Moody to formulate plans for the coming year at which time it is expected to hold an even larger meeting than this one.

Mr. Perry, manager of the cheese box factory and one of the pioneer dairymen of the Beaver Dam community, submitted figures showing the total amount of money received from the sale of cheese since the Beaver Dam factory began operations, the total being in excess of \$32,000.

Dr. Clarence Poe, editor of the Progressive Farmer, was on the program for an address, but was unable to be present.

NOTES FROM THE VALLE CRUCIS SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

The Valle Crucis School for Girls began its 1927-28 session on Wednesday, September 28, with a very satisfactory enrollment of both old and new pupils, drawn from North and South Carolina, Georgia, Tennessee and Virginia. It is expected that the largest class in the history of the school will graduate next May.

Several new faces are seen among the faculty. The treasurer, Miss Virginia Bouldin, away on a year's leave of absence, has been replaced by Miss Edwards, of Niles, Michigan; the former primary teacher, Miss Margaret J. Guerry (Mrs. Dysart Hefner) is succeeded by Miss Iola Tankard, of Washington, N. C.; Miss Hedwig Maul is substituting for Miss Carrie Gudheim of the high school, as the latter is detained by illness. Miss Alma M. Potts, a last year's graduate, will have charge of the dining room and kitchen. Miss Estia Ricard, one of the high school teachers, has returned after a pleasant vacation spent in Baltimore and Washington, as have also Miss Ruthann C. Clough and Miss Mary C. Farmer, of the grammar school, fresh from summer courses at Pennsylvania State College, Erie, Pa., and George Washington University, Washington, D. C. The positions of secretary and matron are filled, as for a number of years in the past, by Miss Isabel Graves and Mrs. Viola Starnes.

On the night of Tuesday, September 27th, the inevitable first-weeks homesickness was forgotten, temporarily at least, in the jolly first night party at which the new girls were introduced to their classmates and the ice effectually broken.

The annual school chestnut hunt will take place shortly.

Mr. Otto Townsend will have charge of the school's electric light plant in place of Mr. Dysart Hefner, who is now located near Asheville.

MRS. CRITCHER CELEBRATES 85TH BIRTHDAY ANNIVERSARY

Mrs. Martha C. Critcher, widow of the late Mr. Wm. J. Critcher, of Bamboo, was given a surprise dinner at the home of her son-in-law, Mr. Abe Edminsten, last Sunday in honor of her eighty-fifth birthday. The plans were laid by her children and grand-children, during last week while she was visiting a daughter, Mrs. Bowles. When she returned last Sunday she found a long table in the yard literally loaded with the choicest "eats" procurable, and all her children, grand-children and great-grandchildren present, numbering in all about sixty. Aside from those there were about 40 guests, making a total of 100 who partook of the splendid repast.

The dinner was prepared and served by the children and grand-children of the well-known and highly respected lady. Despite her age, Mrs. Critcher is still active, in very good health and seemed to enjoy to the fullest the happy occasion.

NEWS OF WEEK BLOWING ROCK

Paving of Sidewalks to Start in Near Future; Work Progressing on New School Building; C. of C. to Launch Membership Drive

By RUPERT GILLET
Blowing Rock, Sept. 28.—H. F. Lattimore, superintendent of the Boyd and Goforth Company of Charlotte, was in Blowing Rock Tuesday to make arrangements for immediately beginning the work of laying sidewalks along main street. The surveying has been completed by Cyrus C. Babb, consulting engineer of Hickory.

Materials for laying the walks had already arrived Tuesday, and the concrete mixer was expected Wednesday. On its arrival, Mr. Lattimore expected to begin at once laying the walks.

The walks will extend on both sides of Main street from the Yonahlossee road to Norvel's hill, and on Boone street from Main street to the new school house. Beyond these limits, the walks will be extended as far as funds will permit.

The cost is being paid partly by the town and partly by the property owners who have ten years to pay their part.

Work is progressing rapidly on the new \$65,000 summer home being erected in Mayview Park by Joe Cannon of Concord. The house is expected to be one of the most beautiful in this exclusive subdivision, and certainly it will command a view unsurpassed by any residence in the resort. It stands on the hill near Graystone Castle and has a view over the gorge toward Grandfather mountain.

The brick work of the new school house has reached the second floor in both the main part of the building and the auditorium.

All possible speed is being made on the building, as it is urgently needed for the classes that are now scattered all over town. It is the hope of the contractor, E. G. Potts, that at least some of the rooms will be ready for the classes immediately after the holidays.

The Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce is to have a campaign for members between now and the opening of the next summer season, it was decided at the last meeting of the chamber. The secretary was instructed to have forms printed for circulation among old members and prospective new members soliciting renewals of membership and new memberships.

The chamber also appointed a committee composed of Spencer Greene, Bynum Crisp and Bud Botick to stimulate interest in the beautifying of yards next spring.

Another committee, composed of Lloyd Robbins, Don Johnson, and Howard Oxentine was appointed to have Lanesome Trail, the most beautiful hiking trail in the resort, put into good condition by the opening of the next summer season. The Chamber of Commerce would pay the expense.

COVE CREEK CULLINGS

Sugar Grove, Sept. 28.—Mrs. Lunda Bingham Graynes goes to Chicago to spend the winter.

James M. Horton, who has been in Cleveland, Ohio, for several years, re-entered Wake Forest College at the opening of the fall semester.

Mr. E. B. Cannon has purchased the A. S. Johnson property at Amantha and will build on it at once. Mr. Johnson is building a residence near the school on a lot purchased from H. E. Deal. Mr. D. H. Mast also has the foundation laid for a residence, while the homes of Messrs. B. B. Beach, Luther M. Bingham and A. C. Mast are practically completed. Watch our community grow!

Contractors Poe & Triplett state that the high school building will be ready for use within two or three weeks. The heating plant is being installed this week and the plastering is being done. The patrons of the school have very generously donated teams and with the help of the high school boys much dirt has been moved towards filling in the grounds. We will be glad to use still other teams until the grounds are leveled.

The total enrollment of the school is now 360 with 184 high school pupils. The work thus far has been very satisfactory and the attendance excellent. We invite the parents to visit the school and to lend their presence and co-operation towards making this year the most successful in the history of the school.

Mr. and Mrs. N. L. Mast, Mrs. J. B. Horton and Mrs. J. W. Henson have gone to Farrell, Pa., for a few weeks' visit with relatives. They will visit Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Horton and Mr. and Mrs. Wm. B. Horton.

Dewey Harmon Surrenders to Sheriff

Alleged Bank Robber Came To Boone Friday Morning and Asked For Berth in County Bastille

Dewey Harmon of Beach Creek, wanted since the first of the month for participation in the robbery of the Valle Crucis Bank, is in the Watauga county jail, having surrendered himself to Sheriff Farthing before the break of day Friday morning. Troy Cannon, his accomplice in the bank robbery, is now serving a sentence of from three to five years in the state prison at Raleigh.

The surrender came as a climax to a chase, wherein posses of officers combed the wild recesses of Beech Mountain by day and by night. Never tiring the dragnet of the law drew closer and closer until Harmon's nerve weakened and he gave up, telling the sheriff that he knew escape could be only of short duration. Pressure brought to bear by the sheriff upon the father-in-law of the young man, upon finding that he had sheltered the fugitive, also aided.

Other warrants have been served on Harmon, charging him with forgery. In default of bonds aggregating about \$6,000, he will be held for trial at the spring term of Watauga superior court.

THE COMING NEW FORD CARS SUBJECT OF MUCH INQUIRY

"When are the new model Ford cars coming out?" is a question often heard and which no one hereabouts is able to answer. It is on the way, perhaps, but just when it will arrive is not answerable.

However, details about the expected new line of Ford cars are beginning to leak through from one source and another, and perhaps in a few days or weeks the thing will be plain. Numbers of the big metropolitan dailies of the north have been sending special men to Detroit to talk to Mr. Ford, and from what is being published in the papers, Mr. Ford is not averse to talking about his forthcoming product. Among other things he is quoted as saying to one special writer, "They tell me that orders have been received for 400,000 of the new cars," and his interviewer goes on to say that the flivver maker was very much animated when he added: "We are already employing, though we are not yet under production with the new car, 65,000 men, and the 65,000 men are drawing as much pay as the 90,000 used to get."

Mr. Ford, creator of the Ford plants, is quoted as saying that as many as 8,500 of the old model "T" cars had been produced in a single day, and adding "We should be able to do better than 10,000 a day once we get everything going smoothly. Of course it will take longer to build the new car, as it is better and bigger in every way."

No date has been fixed, and nobody knows when the first of the new cars will begin to come out of the Ford plants, at least Mr. Sorenson, the general manager of the Ford plants, says he doesn't know.

Among other details given by one reporter, who says he rode in one of the cars, the new Fords will have four cylinders, four-wheel brakes, forty horsepower, standard gear shift, three speeds forward and reverse, gas tank in front of windshield, rounded hood, entirely different springs, perhaps shock absorbers, steel spoke wheels, 104-inch wheel base, self-starter, forged throughout, and the dash board will have gas, oil gauge, speedometer, ammeter, a lock and a clock, an accelerator and a device for adjusting the carburetor. The dynamo generator, says reports, will be a new type and the oiling system will be forced feed. The car will be low hung, supplied in colors and will have plenty of leg room.

Of course, no reader of The Democrat is to take any of this as official. It is not. But clip this out and when the new cars are on the market a few weeks hence, check up on it. The reporter estimates that the 40,000 orders that the Ford company now has, amounts to approximately \$200,000,000, which means an average of about \$500 per car.

Incidentally, in his interview with one of the newspaper reports, Mr. Ford, now an enthusiast on the question of airplanes, is quoted as saying: "It will not be long until we will have airplanes carrying 200 passengers and crossing the Atlantic at the rate of 400 miles per hour." Don't let that take your breath, you might need some of it to pump up your flivver tires.

Much to Review

First Student: "What did your mother say when she heard you had flunked out?"

Second Student: "She became hysterical."

"Hysterical, you mean?"

"No, I mean historical. She dug up my past and reviewed all my sins."

CIVIC CLUB MEETS CHARTER

Presentation Made Saturday Evening in Dining Hall of A. S. N. S.; Attended by Representatives from Several Clubs in This Section

One of the most delightful meetings ever held in this part of the state was Civic Charter Night, which was observed Saturday evening at the Appalachian State Normal School. Members of the Boone Civic Club and guests were greeted at the door by members of the local club and their wives; they then passed into the dining hall where they were seated by the young lady students of the Normal, following which several Civic songs were sung and invocation by Dr. J. D. Rankin.

The Abingdon, Va., Civic Club, which had over thirty members present, received the honor of organizing the Boone club. Representatives were also present from Knoxville, Tenn., including Hon. Neal B. Spahr, international secretary of Civitan.

The address of welcome was delivered by Rev. P. A. Hicks, and responded to by Dr. Phil Smith, who spoke of the Abingdon Civic Club paying its first visit to Boone, in January of this year, coming over "the beautiful Boone Trail highway to visit a city of the Old North State, where the highest type of citizenship prevails and where God's beautiful scenery is unsurpassable."

A most delicious four-course dinner was served by the Normal school under the direction of Mrs. McConnell and Miss Lily Dale, assisted by a number of young ladies of the school. The guests were entertained between courses by the Boone orchestra, directed by Miss Blanche Smith. Other entertainments were given by Miss Ruth Coffey, pianist, and music teacher in the Normal, a solo by Miss Henkel, a reading by Miss McDade and violin solo by Miss Babcock.

A few interesting stunts were pulled off by Willie Kelly of Abingdon, in which Civitan Watt H. Gragg won the prize as being the most perfect man in Boone, the prize being the cutting of a most delicious (fake) cake.

Civitan Potts discussed fully the Civitan creed, his subject being "What Civitans Stand For." Mr. J. H. Neal of Abingdon, also made a brief talk.

Presentation of Charter

The charter for the local club was presented by Hon. Neal B. Spahr of Knoxville, who complimented the Normal school ladies very highly for the elaborate dinner they had prepared and served for the occasion. In presenting the charter for the Boone Civic Club to President J. Frank Moore, Mr. Spahr emphasized the responsible duties devolved upon President Moore and Lloyd Isaacs, secretary, and the membership as a whole of their duties to uphold such an organization composed of the highest type of citizenship which Watauga county affords.

Rev. M. B. Wessley responded to Mr. Spahr's presentation of the charter with a very able speech of appreciation and thanks in behalf of the local club.

Prof. I. G. Greer of the Normal faculty and Dr. Curtis, president of Martha Washington College, Abingdon, acted as toastmasters for the occasion.

Prof. Greer introduced President B. B. Dougherty of the Normal, who thrilled his hearers with a brilliant talk in which he pointed out several reasons why he was proud of North Carolina and Watauga county. "First," he said, "the state owns the largest cotton mills in the world, the largest pulp mill in the world, the largest tobacco factory in the world, that North Carolina paid more revenue to the federal government in 1926 than South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Virginia and Tennessee all combined." Coming down to Watauga county, he stated that she owns over 6,000 milk cows, over 152,000 chickens, over 50,000 turkeys, and the beef cattle is one of our greatest banks. "Our beef cattle are so great in number that it would take them a period of two days to parade through the great city of Knoxville. And alas, when Gabriel sounds his trumpet on the judgment day, Boone, Watauga county, will be selected as the final place to abide when the roll is called of all the good Civitan members and saints."

At the close of the banquet, a hearty rising vote of thanks was extended to the Normal, the president and other officials who made the meeting possible at the school, and which rendered valuable service in making it an enjoyable occasion for all.

In conclusion Dr. Curtis extended a hearty invitation to the Boone club to visit Abingdon.

"Am I the first girl you ever kissed?"

"Now that you mention it, you do look familiar."

Patrons Asked to Conserve Water

Recent Drought Has Greatly Impaired City System and Makes Conservation Imperative

Following a break in a water main in the eastern section of town Sunday and the consequent emptying of the reservoir while repairs were being made, caused many families to carry water from other sources during the first of the week. The water system is again functioning, but owing to the unprecedented dry fall season, the supply cannot furnish the town and replenish the reservoir readily. Therefore the mayor of the city, Mr. W. R. Gragg, urges the strict conservation of water in this emergency. There is water enough for actual needs, but none should be wasted. Under no circumstances must lawns be watered or cars washed while the shortage exists.

CONFEDERATE VETERANS IN ANNUAL REUNION

The few remaining members of Camp Nimrod Triplet, United Confederate Veterans, met in annual reunion last Thursday at the Appalachian State Normal School, where fitting exercises in their honor were rendered. A delightful dinner was served in the central dining hall, and talks were made by Rev. J. A. Yount, John E. Brown, T. E. Bingham, Lloyd Isaacs, commander of Watauga Post, American Legion, and several of the grizzled old heroes of the sixties. A beautiful memorial service for the four who answered the final roll call during the year. Those present for the meeting Thursday included E. J. Norris, commander; H. A. Davis, Enoch Swift, W. A. Williams, S. J. Bishop, W. L. Bryan, N. L. Perkins and W. J. Presnell.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK

Governor A. W. McLean has issued the following proclamation designating the week of October 9 to 15, as Fire Prevention Week in North Carolina:

The state of North Carolina has for years led in efforts to reduce fire waste and its attendant loss of life and property. October 9th to 15th inclusive, has been designated as Fire Prevention Week throughout the United States, and I appeal to our citizenship who are so familiar with the destruction of fire to become vitally interested in this great economic waste.

Carefully gathered statistics show that in 1926, \$6,649,039 worth of property was destroyed by fire; that 286 human beings were burned to death in North Carolina, caused largely through carelessness; compared with our national fire loss of 500 million dollars and 20,000 lives destroyed, this is low, but entirely too great for an intelligent citizenship such as ours. It is well known that carelessness and ignorance of fire hazard go hand in hand as the chief causes of our great national fire waste.

I, therefore, urge that the week of October 9th to 15th be set aside as Fire Prevention Week in accordance with Section 6080 of the Consolidated Statutes, which provides that the governor of North Carolina shall, each year in October, issue a proclamation urging the people to a proper observance.

During this week I also urge that fire drills be held in schools, factories and stores, and that they be continued at regular intervals.

That schools, theaters, public and private hospitals, factories, stores and hotels be inspected and see that every safeguard against fire is prevented, and also that exit facilities are sufficient in case of fire.

That local authorities examine their fire ordinances and make them sufficient if they are lacking in any particular.

To this end I urge our citizens to thoroughly co-operate with our insurance commissioner, and that every mayor issue a proclamation. I earnestly request the co-operation of every citizen, chamber of commerce, Rotary, Lions, Kiwanis and Women's Clubs, and all other civic bodies and the press. As October 9th comes on Sunday, I especially appeal to the clergy and Sunday School superintendents to bring this to the attention of their people.

Now, therefore, I, A. W. McLean, governor of North Carolina, in accordance with law, do issue this my proclamation, and do set aside and designate October 9th to 15th, 1927, as Fire Prevention Week, and do urge all the people to a proper observance of this week in obedience to the statutes of North Carolina.

Done at our city of Raleigh, this 1st day of September, 1927, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and twenty-seven, and in the one hundred and fifty-second year of our American independence.

ANGUS W. McLEAN, Governor.
By the Governor:
Chas. H. England, Private Secy.

MORE LIVESTOCK NEED OF COUNTY

County Can Produce Enough Stock in One Year to Pay Taxes, Bonded Indebtedness and Still Have Good Sum Left Over.

By SMITH HAGAMAN
(County Superintendent Education)

I do not think I am inclined in any way to be pessimistic with reference to our county or our county's future. Every time I visit other counties and come home, the more I can see of the possibilities of Watauga; but it is a good thing for us to occasionally stop patting ourselves on the back long enough to look conditions in the face—and if possible to set about strengthening our weak places, if we have them—and I am sure we have some, and some that look rather serious to me.

I have recently visited every community in Watauga county, and I see standing in the fields and stored in barns enough old hay and fodder to winter every head of livestock in the county, which leaves the entire present crop of feed—and it is one of the finest I have seen for many years—without a single head of livestock to consume it. Hundreds of acres of fine grass could be seen all over the county with almost nothing grazing on it. This, to me, is nothing but a good condition for our county.

Here are some figures taken from the tax returns of the county that will help us to see the trend of the livestock interests of the county:

In 1916, eleven years ago, we had 2,367 horses, 550 mules, 11,543 cattle, 7,004 sheep. Five years ago—1922—we had 2,075 horses, 475 mules, 13,460 cattle, and 8,122 sheep. Of this last number of cattle, 6,609 were milk cows.

In 1925, we had 1,909 horses, 464 mules, 9,758 cattle, and 9,022 sheep; a fall falling off in the number of cattle.

In 1926, we had 1,723 horses, 372 mules, 8,253 cattle, and 8,029 sheep. Of the number of cattle, 4,258 were cows.

This year, 1927, we have 1,631 horses, 408 mules, 7,394 cattle, and 8,148 sheep. We have this year 3,916 cows.

You will observe that for the last four years the number of cattle has fallen off from 13,460 to 7,394—almost one-half.

We report this year the same number of sheep we reported at that time, and practically one-half the number of calves.

Watauga is naturally a livestock county; nature has made it such. Grass grows naturally everywhere, climatic conditions are almost ideal; prices of cattle and lambs are good and yet we have so few to sell.

I am sure we have feed enough to winter at least three times the number of cattle and sheep that are in the county, and will have grass enough next year to graze them.

This figured at conservative, present prices, means a loss of income for next year for the county, or this year as to that matter, of \$754,000—enough to pay all the taxes for this year; all the bonded indebtedness of the county, and give every family \$65 in cash.

This is not visionary stuff, but cold figures and facts. It seems to me that the sensible thing for the farmers and business men of Watauga is to do it to get together and start something to remedy this condition—and it can be done.

I hope to have something further to say next week about the economic condition of our county.

MRS. JOHN HARDIN HOSTESS TO FRIDAY AFTERNOON CLUB

Charming in every detail was the way in which Mrs. John Hardin entertained the Friday Afternoon Club on Tuesday afternoon in celebration of her birthday.

The rooms in which the club met were very attractive with baskets of large red and yellow dahlias.

After an hour or more of sewing and conversation, Mrs. Hardin, assisted by Mesdames Ben Hardin and Tracy Council, served a delicious salad course and accessories followed by cream and cake. The birthday cake was beautiful with its lighted candles.

Mrs. Hardin was the recipient of many pretty presents, among which was a large box of candy from the club.

Guests of the club were Mesdames Joe Hardin, Grady Farthing, Ada Coffey of Lenoir, Mrs. Vaughn of New York, Misses Eula and Jennie Todd.

The club will meet with Mrs. M. P. Critcher October 7th.

A Strangle Hold

Wunne: "I can't understand why I was so dizzy last night. I only had one glass."

Gnyee: "Yes, but they kept filling it!"