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BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA. THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1927

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Examiners Visit Watauga Co. Bank

Messrs. Williams and Harrison Pay Annual Visit to Local Institution; Bank in Fine Shape

W. L. Williams and M. L. Harrison, state bank examiners, made their annual examination of the Watauga County Bank on Monday and Tuesday of this week. The last session of the general assembly made the laws governing banks more strict and the examiners are requiring strict obedience to the regulations. A statement of the condition of this bank appears in this issue of the Democrat and shows the institution to be in splendid shape, with assets of more than three quarters of a million dollars. This is indeed a fine showing for a bank in Watauga.

SAYS BUSINESS MEN MUST HELP MAKE ROADS SAFE

Rocky Mount, Oct. 25.—The most serious problem facing North Carolina, in the opinion of State Commissioner of Revenue R. A. Doughton, is the mounting casualty lists from automobile wrecks on highways.

In addressing a group of business men here Mr. Doughton pointed out that since July 1 there have been 631 automobile wrecks, resulting in 143 persons killed and 1,170 injured on highways.

"What the solution may be I do not know," he said, "but I do know it presents a problem which calls for the most careful thought and consideration of our citizenship. The future of North Carolina rests with you business men. You must study state problems and aid in solving them."

JUDGE ADVISES ASHE PEOPLE TO ARM AND PROTECT HOMES

Jefferson, Oct. 24.—"Citizens of Ashe county, provide yourselves with guns in your homes and if any masked men enter your homes, it is not only your right, but your duty to shoot them and be sure that you shoot them," was the admonition of Judge N. A. Sinclair from the bench of superior court here.

"Nobody but a coward ever wrote an anonymous letter," was another judicial declaration in which Judge Sinclair showed his disgust with alleged flouting and threatening methods which had been used by certain groups who claimed to be affiliated with the Ku Klux Klan.

CLOTHING FOUND IN HICKORY STOLEN AT BLOWING ROCK?

Hickory, Oct. 25.—Sixteen pairs of pants and twelve coats were found in bundles in the depot here when officers made a search following the arrest of Guy Cook, believed to be a resident of Blowing Rock.

Cook was arrested on a charge of being drunk. A bus driver of the Blowing Rock line told officers that Cook had several bundles with him when he came down on the Jimmy. A pint bottle of whiskey was also found when officers searched the station.

Cook denied ownership of any of the bundles containing the clothing and the liquor, at the same time refusing to tell the officer his name. Persons acquainted with him furnished the information to the police.

REV. WM. T. JORDAN BEGINS TERM IN STATE PRISON

Raleigh, Oct. 25.—Rev. Willis T. Jordan, former Columbus, Ga., minister, convicted recently of bigamy in Mecklenburg county superior court at Charlotte, tonight began serving a sentence of 18 months in the state prison here. He was brought from Charlotte by deputy sheriffs. He was placed in his cell for the night, prison officials told newspapermen who sought interviews.

U. D. C. MEETING AT A. S. N. S. THIS AFTERNOON AT 3:30

There will be a meeting of the Watauga Chapter, Daughters of the Confederacy on Thursday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock with Miss Lily Dale in the Administration building of the Appalachian State Normal school.

GENERAL MOTORS EARNINGS

New York, Oct. 25.—The General Motors Corporation, in point of earning capacity, the premier industrial corporation of the country, today forged far ahead of its nearest rival, the United States Steel Corporation. The automotive concern's net income for the first nine months of 1927, amounting to \$193,757,302, broke all previous records for any similar period, and exceeded the total net earnings for the full year of 1926. The Steel Corporation reported a surplus of \$74,050,023 available for dividends in the same period.

NEWS OF WEEK AT BLOWING ROCK

Relatives and Friends Visit Sick in Statesville; Movement Launched to Beautify Streets; Walls of New School Building Completed

By RUPERT GILLET
Blowing Rock, Oct. 26.—Quite a party of Blowing Rock folk were at Statesville over the week-end visiting relatives at Dr. Long's Sanatorium.

Ernest Banner was in Statesville visiting Mrs. Banne and their daughter, Ernestine June, born October 14. It is hoped that Mr. Banner will be able to return to Blowing Rock with his baby some time next week.

Miss Mahel Coffey, sister of Mrs. Banner, and Miss Mary Robbins and friends also paid a visit to Mrs. Banner Sunday.

C. L. Dula was at the hospital visiting Mrs. Dula, who has undergone a serious operation. She is reported to be doing well.

Mrs. Rufus Coffey, mother of Mrs. Banner, joined the Blowing Rock party at the dinner table at Mrs. Gilbert's. She has been in Statesville with her daughter for several weeks.

Mrs. Pentress, who was passing through Statesville Saturday, paid visits to the Blowing Rock people in the hospital.

Peck Holshouser and Thomas Coffey, Jr., passed through Statesville at the same time on their way to the football game at Greensboro. Car trouble, however, forced them to stop several hours in Statesville.

To Beautify Streets
With the approaching completion of Blowing Rock's paved sidewalks, a movement got under way to beautify the streets by planting flowers, shrubs and trees between the edge of the sidewalk and the curb. Donations of \$75 have already been promised for this purpose, and another \$75 is said to have been tentatively promised.

Those taking the lead in the movement are Donald J. Boyden, manager of Mayview Manor and Blowing Rock Hotel, Mayor George M. Sudarth, H. C. Hayes and others.

It was pointed out that this would be a good time to replace the maple trees which once lined Blowing Rock's main street, but which were cut down by the highway department.

Walls of School Building Finished

The brick work on the new Blowing Rock consolidated school building was finished last week. The roof was to be put on the coming week, and then the workmen are to begin the interior finishing. It is the hope of the school board to have the building ready for classes within six weeks.

Beautiful Weather Follows Storm

Only a light autumn breeze remained Saturday of the gale that swept across Blowing Rock mountain the early part of last week and brought snow and sleet with it. Old citizens said it was the worst wind in their memories. One of the large trees in front of Blowing Rock hotel was blown down across the highway and other minor damage was done.

Minstrel Show at Linville

The minstrel show being prepared by the Blowing Rock band under the direction of Joseph Warren of Mt. Airy, will be presented sometime next week at Linville, it was announced Tuesday by Mr. Warren. Daily rehearsals are being held in preparation for the entertainment. The cast will consist of members of the band, assisted by A. E. Mercer, principal of the Blowing Rock schools. The Blowing Rock Dramatic Club, also directed by Mr. Warren, is rehearsing daily on the farce comedy, "Mystery Moon" which will be presented here at Boone and at surrounding towns during November. The band will furnish music for the comedy.

Contract Let for New Unit at Bemberg Plant

The Johnson City Chronicle announced Friday that the main contract for the construction of the second \$3,500,000 unit of the American Bemberg Corporation, \$17,500,000 enterprise at Elizabethton, Tenn., had been made.

Avery Man Guilty of Second Degree Murder

Charged With Slaying of Robert Burleson Several Months Ago; Mrs. Burleson Acquitted

Newland, Oct. 25.—Pitt Holt was found guilty of second degree murder in the killing of Robert Burleson in the latter's home several months ago, and Mrs. Ida Burleson, widow of the dead man, was acquitted, when an Avery county jury returned a verdict this morning in the superior court after having been out since 10 o'clock Saturday night.

Pitt Holtzclaw, Mrs. Burleson and Joe Holtzclaw, a brother of Pitt, entered the trial here several days ago as co-defendants under indictment by the state. However, after the state had concluded its direct testimony, the case against Joe Holtzclaw was thrown out on motion of the defense, on the ground that there was not enough evidence to uphold the charge of the state in which move the court agreed.

The trial then proceeded with the dead man's widow and Pitt Holtzclaw as defendants, testimony being completed by the defense Saturday and arguments heard by the jury from prosecution and defense. Judge John H. Harwood presided. The principals were all residents of McDowell county.

Burleson was killed one night shortly after entering his wife's room according to testimony of Cora Burleson, his 10-year-old daughter, who was the star witness for the state.

According to the girl, she was in bed with her mother in the room and it was dark but she had seen Pitt Holtzclaw in the room also.

The father entered, and the mother, according to the girl, told him to strike a match and light an oil lamp on the mantle. As he struck the match the girl testified, there was a pistol flash from the spot where she estimated Holtzclaw was standing and the father fell mortally wounded.

MR. LINNEY IMPRESSED JUDGE J. H. HARWOOD

"Governor McLean certainly made no mistake in appointing Judge John H. Harwood as superior court judge," said District Attorney F. A. Linney, on his return from Newland, where he attended the Avery county superior court term presided over by Judge Harwood.

"Judge Harwood," continued Mr. Linney, "conducted the court in a thoroughgoing business like manner. He gives promise of being one of the ablest superior court judges in the state."

FIFTH SUNDAY MEETING AT MIDDLE CANE CHURCH

The Democrat is asked to announce that there will be a fifth Sunday meeting at Middle Cane church, Stony Fork Baptist Association, beginning Saturday, September 29 at 2 p. m. and continuing through Sunday. All denominations are invited to attend. Organization will be perfected and the program announced at the Saturday afternoon meeting.

NEW BUS FOR BLOWING ROCK PUBLIC SCHOOL

County Superintendent Smith Hagaman went to Cove Saturday where he purchased a bus to be used in transporting students to and from the Blowing Rock consolidated school. The bus was purchased through the Boone Chevrolet Company and was placed in operation Tuesday.

Memphis, Tenn., Oct. 22.—Total damage to the state of Mississippi from the spring flood was placed tonight at \$45,931,294 by the Mississippi River Flood Control Association following an extensive survey of the 21 counties affected. Similar data will be obtained from Arkansas, Illinois, Missouri, Tennessee, Kentucky and Louisiana and submitted to congress at its coming session. F. D. Beake, secretary of the association, said. Heaviest damage in Mississippi was to crops, the association report listing crop losses at \$23,217,829. Eight hundred thousand acres of crop land were flooded and the cost of replanting was estimated at \$1,654,950. Property damage was estimated at \$16,338,965, including the destruction of 2,726 houses and damage to 22,940 others. Business losses were listed at \$3,220,000, hardwood lumber industry, 42 mills affected, \$1,165,000; damage to school buildings and equipment, \$103,000, and damage to highways and bridges \$400,000. Losses of livestock totaled \$1,031,550, it was shown.

A wire dish drainer is a great time saver. Hot water can be poured over the china, and only the silver and glasses need be dried.

NEWS OF WEEK OVER THE COUNTY

Happenings from Various Sections of Watauga as Related by Democrat Correspondents; Some Things You Know and Some You Don't

MATNEY

Matney, Oct. 24.—There will be a pie supper at Matney school Saturday, October 29, at 7:30 p. m. Everybody invited to come and bring your friend and sweetheart. Refreshments will be served.

Miss Laura Candler went to Banner Elk this afternoon to resume her studies at Lees-McKee Institute.

A revival meeting will begin at the Northern Methodist church here the first Sunday in November.

Prayer meeting was held at the home of Mr. Jim Baird on Sunday evening with a large attendance.

Miss Leola Edminsten and Miss Clary Baird visited Mrs. George Baird Sunday afternoon.

COVE CREEK

Sugar Grove, Oct. 25.—The many friends of Mrs. Nan Johnson of Sherwood will learn with sadness of her death last Friday in the Boone hospital.

Mrs. James Mast is spending the week with friends in Hickory.

Mr. and Mrs. S. F. Horton spent the week-end in Charlotte and Gaffney, S. C.

John B. Horton spent the week-end in Charlotte.

Mrs. J. S. McBride was operated on for appendicitis in the Boone hospital last week. She is getting along nicely.

Mr. and Mrs. Luther M. Bingham have recently moved into their attractive bungalow.

Mr. Gordon Hodges went to Statesville Sunday to see his brother, Lloyd Hodges, who was operated on for appendicitis in a hospital there last week.

S. F. Horton is undergoing treatment for a serious trouble under Dr. J. P. Matheon of Charlotte.

Miss Winnie Taylor spent the week-end at her home in Wilkes county.

Miss Ruth Allison spent the week-end with Miss Louise Critcher in Boone.

Mrs. D. G. Brown who has been very sick for several days, is somewhat improved.

POPLAR GROVE

Rev. G. W. Sebastian held his regular appointments here Saturday and Sunday. He will be here again November 12 for three services.

County Superintendent Hagaman visited the school here one day last week.

Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Hettner and family of Hickory visited Mr. and Mrs. Fred Winkler Sunday.

Several people from this community are attending the revival at Shulls Mills, conducted by Revs. Bradshaw and Cook.

Poplar Grove school, taught by Mr. S. W. Miller and Miss Florence Greene, invited you to their Halloween entertainment Monday night, October 31 at 7 o'clock. The entertainment is given by the school and no admission will be charged. There will be good things to eat for sale. The proceeds will go to the school.

18 OUT OF 35 COUNTIES SHOW DECREASED TAX RATE

Raleigh, Oct. 25.—Reports giving the 1927 real and personal valuations of thirty-one counties have been received at the office of the state board of equalization here. All the counties have reduced their property, this being revaluation year, which gives these reports additional interest.

Eighteen of those received show an increase over the 1926 valuation which totals \$49,114,830. Forsyth heads the list with an increase of \$19,929,790. Durham, Cabarrus, Transylvania, Lincoln, Wilson, Stanly, are other counties that report a material increase in values.

Thirteen counties have reduced real and personal property values from the valuation of last year by a total of \$19,811,205. Pitt county leads this group with a reduction of \$2,180,809. Others following closely are Person, Cumberland, Johnston, Warren and Scotland.

Mrs. Nan Johnson Dies Following Operation

Beloved Cove Creek Lady Passed Away in Hospital Here Friday; Other Deaths in County

At 7 p. m. last Friday, Mrs. Nannie Johnson, of Sherwood, relict of Mr. Joseph Johnson, died at the Watauga Hospital following an operation for appendicitis, which was performed a few days previous. The funeral was conducted from the home Saturday afternoon, the Rev. L. A. Hurst, pastor of the deceased, conducting the services, interment being in the cemetery near Cove Creek Baptist church.

Mrs. Johnson was 65 years of age, and had for many years been a devoted member of the Baptist church, and had lived as nearly up to its precepts as it is possible for one to live. Wednesday morning a gentleman in Boone who had known Mrs. Johnson all his life, was heard to remark, "There wasn't a better woman on Cove Creek, or one that will be more generally missed than Mrs. Nan Johnson."

She is survived by two children, Mrs. Charles Lewis of Boone, and Mr. Arthur Johnson, of Cove Creek. She has one surviving brother, Mr. Sam E. Day, of Neva, Tenn.

MR. FRANK BROWN PASSES AT HOME ON MEAT CAMP

Mr. Frank Brown, 71, prominent citizen of the Meat Camp section, died at his home Monday afternoon, after several months of declining health. And Mr. Frank Greene, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Milton Greene and grandson of Rev. and Mrs. Ed Greene, of the same community, died about the same time, following a lingering illness with tuberculosis. Both were buried in the Brown cemetery Tuesday, the Revs. Ed Hodges and Watts conducting the funeral.

Mr. Brown was a good citizen, and always very firm in his convictions. He reared a large family of children, Mrs. Polly Wake of Boone, and Messrs. Conley and Wilby Brown being among the number. Mrs. Brown also survives.

GEORGE L. STORY

Mr. George L. Story, 72, of Blowing Rock, N. C., who had been seriously ill for some time, died at his home Sunday. Mr. Story was for many years the leading merchant of his section of the county, and was also a good farmer. But old age came along; his property was divided among his children, and at the time of his death his holdings were meager.

Mr. Story had his faults—we all have them—but the good in his makeup largely predominated. While a prosperous merchant, the poor, the needy, the afflicted of his neighborhood were always cared for by him, regardless of whether or not he ever expected any reward for his charitable deeds. In many respects, he was indeed a splendid citizen. He is survived by his widow, four sons and three daughters. The funeral was held at 10 a. m. Monday, a large number of relatives and friends being present.

MINISTERS ARE GUESTS AT NORMAL SCHOOL DINNER

Revs. E. C. Campbell and R. J. Parker, who recently conducted meetings in the Baptist and Methodist churches, together with the faculty, were invited to dinner at the Normal one day last week. During the meal a prize was presented to Mr. Parker by the Young Peoples' Sunday school class of the Methodist church, in appreciation of the marked services rendered during the meeting. Mr. Campbell was honored by being invited to use an especially prepared table. After supper a number were invited by this club to an assembly room at Lovell Home where an interesting program was rendered. Mr. Parker sang in Spanish and afterwards read a part of a chapter from John 14. Mr. Campbell delivered a splendid address. Some others were called on for a few remarks.

INDIANA FARMER DEEDS LAND TO PRESIDENT

Indianapolis, Ind.—Two tracts of land totaling 176 acres, between Knox and Winamac, Ind., today were deeded to President Coolidge, with a stipulation that when a "real curative and equitable farm policy" shall be established by an act of congress the land shall revert to the state of Indiana, by Luke W. Duffey, Republican state senator in 1919, and his wife.

The deed conveys the land to "Calvin Coolidge as trustee" for Andrew Mellon, James Reed, Simon D. Fess, Julian Barnes, William Jardine, Herbert Hoover, Pat Harrison and Finis Garrett, "as tenants in common."

Duffey has long been active in efforts to obtain farm relief. The deed has been recorded.

TAUGHT IN COUNTY FIFTY YEARS AGO

Dr. Zebulon V. Sherrill Taught School on Stony Fork in the Fall of 1877, Receiving \$18.75 for Two Months' Session

County Superintendent Smith Hagaman is in receipt of the following letter from Dr. Zebulon V. Sherrill, of Marion, Va., a former resident of Watauga county, who, after reading the story in last week's issue of the Democrat about some old school vouchers, says he taught in the county half a century ago.

"I see in the Watauga Democrat a reference to an old voucher paid Miss Nannie Rivers for teaching at the Meat Camp school in 1884. I do not suppose there exists today in the county superintendent's office any voucher to prove my assertion, but it is, nevertheless, a fact in the fall of 1877, fifty years ago, October and November, I taught a school in the Stony Fork neighborhood of six weeks' duration (public school) for the sum of \$18.75, and during January and February of 1878, I taught another school of two months' duration for the sum of \$36.00.

"I boarded with the scholars as a matter of course, and enjoyed the good things they gave me to eat, spare ribs and back bones of fresh pork that had been fattened from heel tap corn or from boiled back-wheat, chicken, ginger cakes made from rye flour, with sorghum molasses. Later I taught at old Poplar Grove, Beards' Creek, Phillips school-house and other points.

"As I recall, Mr. S. M. Dugger was superintendent of schools and if you wanted to teach in the public schools and needed a certificate you had to go to Banner Elk to get your examination. I had to borrow a horse from a neighbor or walk over to his home from Berea. The latter worked as hard as I did and they were good times and good yet for a poor boy. One day I used to go to school on foot, as usual, on Monday.

"After teaching my first school at Beaver Dam in 1875, I bought my first pair of pants from Mr. W. L. Bryan of Boone.

"No ready-made clothing" was kept in the two stores at Boone at that early date. I borrowed a horse from a neighbor and rode to Mr. C. Cowles' store, some way out, far from Deep Gap and bought my first overcoat made of pure cotton cloth. At this early date, Mr. Cowles kept quite a large store with a number of clerks and seemed to be doing a thriving business.

"While boarding among the scholars at one of the schools referred to (I think it was in the Stony Fork section) I went home with one of the pupils one evening after school to spend the night. At the table that night we were eating sweet potatoes and drinking sweet milk. The cups from which we drank were the old-fashioned high quarts. I was making pretty good progress with my milk and was congratulating myself on the fact that I would be able to complete the job, when to my surprise and dismay, a nice tall girl, a member of the family, stepped up from behind and filled my cup to the brim without so much as asking if I wanted more. It was too much for me. I burst into tears and could not control myself for many minutes. I finally was able to explain my conduct to the family by telling them that my mother had taught me to eat all that was set before me, asking no questions, and I felt sure if I ate all the potatoes and drank all the two quarts of milk, I could not long survive, and therefore, my grief and sorrow on account of my near approach to death."

WATAUGAN HONORED AT BEREA COLLEGE, KY.

Berea, Ky., Oct. 25. (Special)—The friends and neighbors of Thos. Farthing of Watauga Falls, N. C., will be pleased to learn that he is beginning the year at Berea College here as corresponding secretary of the Tau Kappa Alpha Society.

This organization admits to its membership people who are particularly proficient in public speaking. Mr. Farthing has qualified for membership in the organization because of his very great interest as a public speaker.

BOONE TRAIL CAFE ENTERED BY THIEVES THURSDAY NIGHT

Thieves entered the Boone Trail cafe here Tuesday night and obtained cigars, cigarettes and candy, valued at about \$10, but no money, as none had been left in the cash drawer. No arrests have been made and no clues have been found likely to lead to an arrest.

The thieves entered the cafe by forcing the lock of the front door. The burglary occurred sometime after midnight.